

THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

Bankrupt laws First of a series on bankruptcy examines the legal inequalities

French dressing Suzy Menkes reports on this season's Paris fashions

Bishop's move Miles Kington checks out a mysterious ecclesiastical kidnapping

Eying the Irish Preview of England v Irish Republic at Wembley

Portfolio £6,000 to be won

There is £6,000 available to be won today in The Times Portfolio competition, as the £2,000 daily prizes were not won on Friday and Saturday. Saturday's weekly prize of £20,000 was won by Mr Stanley Graham Edwards, of Bushey, Hertfordshire. Today's list, page 24, rules and how to play, back page Information Service.

Battles rage in centre of Beirut

Fighting broke out all along Beirut's front line, for the first time in months, amid new anger and despair. President Gemayel returned from Damascus with no apparent solution to the mutiny in his Phalangist party while Shia Muslim leaders condemned further village raids by Israeli troops in southern Lebanon. Page 5

Aid suspended

The International Monetary Fund has suspended aid to Argentina after the country's failure to comply with an economic austerity programme negotiated three months ago. Page 25

Summit setback

The Kremlin's diary of engagements is filling up so much for April and May that chances of an early Reagan-Gorbachev summit are receding. Page 6

Pay clash nears

A serious confrontation with the Government is predicted as leaders of four national public service workers meet to draw up a joint strategy on pay. Page 2

Costly centre

The cost of the Government's new international conference centre at Westminster has risen by more than 16 per cent, to £54,775,000. Page 2

Sun injunction

An injunction has been granted against two print unions ordering a halt to industrial action which has stopped production of The Sun and News of the World. Page 2

Norwich win

Norwich City earned £64,000 and a place in Europe after beating Sunderland 1-0, through an own-goal by Chisholm, in the Milk Cup final at Wembley. Page 28

THE TIMES (SPECIAL REPORT)

Infotech: On the eve of Infor 85, a look at the state of information technology, which has escaped virtually unscathed from public-expenditure cuts. Pages 18 to 23

Leader page 11

Letters on London rents, from Mr T. McBrearty; British Lottery, from Frederick Dainton. Leading articles: Overseas aid; disciplining headmasters; the Queen's visit to Portugal.

Features, pages 8, 9, 10

Manchester's eastern promise; Black violence in South Africa; Teaching children at home; Doctors and the drug companies.

Obituary, page 10

Lord Bessing, Zoot Sims

Classified, pages 30-35

Secretarial appointments; university appointments

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Tighter security for Parliament to beat attack by terrorists

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Security at the Houses of Parliament is to be improved, with the use of the latest surveillance devices and extra police, to combat the threat of terrorist attacks.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher and senior Cabinet colleagues are under growing pressure to approve the spending of an extra £1.25 million on protecting what is acknowledged to be a prime IRA target, and are expected soon to give their approval.

The new measures, which follow an 18-month security review given fresh impetus by the IRA bomb at the Grand Hotel in Brighton during last year's Conservative Party conference, are expected to include:

- 70-ft-high perimeter railings round unprotected areas of the Palace of Westminster, including Speaker's Green and Cromwell Green, costing £800,000;
- X-ray machines at the main entrances and exits to check visitors' bags and parcels;
- A 10 per cent increase in police and security staff to operate new equipment and carry out extra checks on vehicles entering Parliament;
- Infra-red beam devices, alarms and possibly cameras inside Commons and Lord rooms and corridors;
- Increased random identity checks.

In addition, restrictions on access to various parts of Parliament may be introduced for some of the 3,000 people who regularly work there, such as secretaries and the increasing number of researchers.

But a plan to make all Commons and Lords workers, including MPs and peers, wear identity label badges has been rejected, as has the idea of erecting a toughened glass screen between the Commons public gallery and MPs.

Security at Westminster is the responsibility of a little-known committee of senior MPs and peers. Their review has highlighted loopholes, exposed on Budget day last week when two men walked in and wandered along corridors and stairs normally blocked off to the public, only yards from Cabinet ministers' rooms.

They were finally stopped while walking into the press gallery and later admitted that they had breached security for a "dash".

The Brighton bombing of Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, summoned a meeting to discuss security at Parliament, attended by Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, Lord Whitelaw, Leader of the Lords, Conservative members of the security committee and leading parliamentary officials and police chiefs.

Mrs Thatcher and Cabinet colleagues, whose personal security has been increased since the Brighton incident, have been given private tours of Westminster this year to inspect existing security arrangements.

Apart from the planned new measures, likely to be introduced this summer, security chiefs are convinced that if Parliament is to be efficiently protected some of the buildings' present functions must cease.

In particular there is concern about the large number of people who attend MPs' social functions, such as dinners and banquets, and meetings where security checking is not easy.

Two convicted IRA terrorists have been to meetings at Westminster in recent months.

Some of the "fringe" activities, it is believed must go. As an example security chiefs point to the cancellation, on security grounds, of last year's annual Christmas concert where the Grenadier Guards were to be played.

Security has concerned the Commons since a 20lb IRA gelignite bomb exploded in the Great Hall in 1974, injuring 11 people, fracturing a gas main and starting a fire which charred the famous hammerbeam roof.

Five years later an Irish National Liberation Army bomb killed Airey Neave, Conservative Northern Ireland spokesman, as he left the underground car park in the main Commons building.



Zola Budd breaks the tape to win the women's world cross-country championship by 23sec in Lisbon yesterday. Carlos Lopes won the men's event (Report, page 27)

25 young jobless invited to No 10

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister has invited 25 unemployed youngsters from Merseyside to discuss their problems with her at 10 Downing Street tomorrow.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Knowsley, North, said yesterday that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had agreed to pay for a coachload of unemployed constituents to visit her at Downing Street following the closure of a local factory earlier this year.

Her private secretary has written: "The Prime Minister envisages that in addition to enabling the group to explain to her something of their lives and problems, she would like to see if some practical help can be given."

She has arranged for Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, a leading member of the Manpower Services Commission, a careers adviser, a Job Centre manager, and personnel managers from some expanding companies to attend the meeting.

The group, a cross-section of Knowsley's North's 4,000 unemployed youngsters, start their day by meeting Mr Neil Kinnock, at the Commons, have lunch as guests of the Greater London Council, and then go back to the Commons for Prime Minister's Question Time before going to No 10.

There are 10,000 unemployed in Knowsley North. More than half of those aged 18 to 19 have never had a job, and only 6 per cent of last year's Knowsley schoolleavers found work. Knowsley is considered one of the poorest boroughs in Europe.

Mr Kilroy-Silk said yesterday: "I welcome anything positive, practical and constructive. If just one of these youngsters gets a job out of this then it will have been worthwhile."

But he added: "The purpose of this visit is to educate the Prime Minister to the realities of life on the dole for hundreds of thousands of young people with no future and no hope."

"I told her that she cannot understand the problem, representing a London constituency with only 9 per cent unemployed, and that she should come to Merseyside and see for herself. She told me that she would never get a chance to talk to youngsters properly because there would be demonstrations. So I'm bringing the jobs mountain to Mahomet at No 10."

Key CIA role in Falasha airlift

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency played a primary role in a secret airlift of 700 black Ethiopian Jews, or Falashas, from a refugee camp on the plains of eastern Sudan to Israel on Friday.

The operation, which began at dawn, involved 7 C-130 transports. The White House sanctioned it.

The Falashas were ushered onboard while the planes kept their engines running on a gravel airstrip near Gedaref, a few hundred miles south-east of Khartoum. The aircraft came originally from Frankfurt.

President Mimeriy of Sudan supposedly approved of the mission, provided it was kept secret. Details were worked out during a meeting between President Mimeriy and Vice-President George Bush on March 6.

President Mimeriy is expected in Washington this week on a private visit for a medical check-up. He is due to meet President Reagan later in the week. Washington, like Israel, imposed an official news blackout on the airlift yesterday.

But US government officials indicated that the number of Falashas airlifted was half to a third fewer than had been expected. An official of the Association for Ethiopian Jews said about 700 Falashas had arrived safely in Israel.

Some 1,500 Falashas, the estimated number still in Sudan, fleeing hunger and discrimination in Ethiopia, had been expected. Earlier, State Department officials had said as many as 1,200 Falashas died of famine and disease after suspension in January of an Israeli airlift out of Sudan. Conditions in refugee camps there are said to be terrible.

In that operation, also conducted with great secrecy, 7,800 Falashas got to Israel between November 21 and January 6. It was abandoned when news of it leaked out.

● KHARTOUM: Diplomats and aid workers in Sudan were taken by surprise by the airlift (Paul Valley writes).

"They've really kept the lid on this one. We hadn't heard even a whisper of it. We were expecting such a move but not yet. We thought they would wait for much longer until the dust had settled after the last escapee," one embassy official said.

A diplomat said: "The last of the Falashas in Sudan may have gone, but the issue will not go away. There are still between 12,000 and 15,000 Falashas in the parts of Gondar which are isolated by fighting between the Ethiopian Government and various rebel groups. It must now be assumed that the rest will start to filter through once they hear of the success of this operation."

Photograph, page 5
Leading article, page 11

Whitehall to install NHS computers

By Our Lobby Reporter

The Government will announce this week the establishment of an information advisory group to oversee the National Health Service computerization programme.

Ministers are hoping that by co-ordinating the microchip revolution from Whitehall patient care will improve and waiting lists will be cut.

The creation of an advisory group follows an 18-month review into computer and information technology policy headed by Mr John Patten, the junior health minister.

It concluded that the planning of NHS computerization must be centralized within the Department of Health and Social Services and not be split, as at present, between central government and regions.

Bodies involved with new technology, including the computer policy committee and steering group on information technology, will be abolished to make way for the new group, which will have representatives from the 14 health authorities.

With hundreds of millions of pounds due to be spent on new technology over the next few years, ministers feared that piecemeal development would be wasteful.

Computerization will affect accounting, cost control and permit the creation of bed "banks". Ministers are optimistic it will cut waiting lists, now standing at about 675,000.

It is also hoped computers will provide more accurate waiting lists. Unofficial estimates suggest they could be up to 30 per cent too high.

But more importantly it is hoped that administrators will be able to use centrally-stored data to transfer patients from busy hospitals to underused facilities to speed up treatment.

Britain denies 'mission of treachery' over Ulster

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Government was accused yesterday of being involved in a "mission of treachery" as anger and alarm grew in the Unionist community amid speculation that the Prime Minister was on the verge of reaching a settlement of the Northern Ireland problem which involved the Irish Republic.

Unionist fears remain that the British and Irish Governments are involved in secret talks on a deal that will undermine their position within the United Kingdom, in spite of a report to this effect being dismissed in London and Dublin as "speculation".

A report yesterday in the Mail on Sunday has thrown a potential political cocktail into the local government election campaign, coming as it did at the end of a week in which British ministers had talks in Dublin, and Dr Garret FitzGerald the Irish Prime Minister spoke of finding "a novel political structure" which accommodated both identities, while accepting that there could be no constitutional change in the Province's status without the consent of the majority.

A government spokesman in Dublin dismissed the report as "totally and wildly speculative", and Mr Nicholas Scott, Under-Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, said that such "imaginary reporting" could be potentially dangerous and damaging by raising expectations in one section of the community and fears in another.

Both governments insisted that agreement on any political development was some way off, and that talks which have gone on since last November's Anglo-Irish summit might end in failure.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in a statement issued at Stormont that it would be some time before it was clear whether any practical results could be produced.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, yesterday accused British ministers who went to Dublin last week of being on a "mission of treachery".

"We will not have the destiny of Ulster settled in Dublin. We will settle the destiny of Ulster ourselves", he said.

Meanwhile, the Orange Order in Belfast, said that Orangemen would do everything in their power to stop moves to give the Irish Republic an involvement in the affairs of Northern Ireland. They were opposed to attempts to placate and appease a rebellious minority.

Continued on back page, col 2

10 more die in Cape violence

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The violence in the Eastern Cape, where 17 blacks were shot dead by police last Thursday and two more have since died, claimed at least 10 more lives at the weekend as blacks vented their anger on fellow blacks regarded as Government collaborators.

An enraged mob in the KwaNobushle township, near Port Elizabeth, attacked a funeral parlour on Saturday owned by a town councillor, looting petrol bombs through the windows and hacking to death the three men who had been guarding it.

They then set fire to corpses, and danced round the smouldering remains for the benefit of television cameras. One of the dead men was the 18-year-old son of the owner, Mr T. B. Kinkini. One of two other badly burnt bodies has been tentatively identified as Mr Kinkini himself.

Mr Kinkini was the only remaining member of the KwaNobushle council, all the others having resigned in fear of their lives. The Government-created councils are regarded with scorn by most blacks, and those who serve on them are seen as puppets and stooges.

Police claimed that as they were removing the bodies they were surrounded by a group of blacks shouting: "We killed them, and you're next". They said they were forced to open fire, wounding several of the group.

Later on Saturday, a black man and woman were killed when police opened fire on a mob which, they said, in plundering a liquor store had thrown petrol bombs at them. Elsewhere, two black youths were shot dead when they attacked a black constable with knives.

As many as 10,000 blacks were estimated to have attended the funeral in KwaNobushle yesterday of six victims of earlier unrest. No violence was reported.

Botha trapped, page 10

Levene's firm in jet deal row

By Colin Hughes

The Ministry of Defence is in dispute with a company formerly chaired by Mr Peter Levene, the controversial new Chief of Defence Procurement, over a £4million contract to buy cannon pods for Phantom fighter aircraft, it was disclosed yesterday.

Mr Denzil Davies, opposition spokesman on defence, said he will be putting down written questions to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, asking him to explain the terms of the contract.

The contract was signed two years ago, when the MoD went "shopping" among industrial groups and suppliers for anyone who could quickly provide 20mm cannon pods for Phantoms to replace those lost or damaged in the Falklands War.

United Scientific Instruments, a subsidiary of United Scientific Holdings, of which Mr Levene was then chairman, said they could acquire 70 gun pods from Israel, and agreed a £4million contract with the MoD to supply them.

When the pods arrived, in mid-1983, several were damaged and needed extensive repair to bring them up to service standard. One defence ministry source said: "We thought we were going to get pods which would last for a while longer, but many of them could not be used at all."

Since then the MoD procurement staff have been in negotiations with USI over the terms of the contract. A spokesman for the MoD said yesterday that USI interpreted the contract as simply having been to supply gun pods, while the MoD staff assumed it meant they should be serviceable on arrival.

"Talks over that contractual dispute are still continuing," the spokesman added. It was not a question of impropriety on USI's part, but a dispute over who should bear the cost of repair work to the pods.

The talks, however, are being conducted between a company which Mr Levene formerly chaired, and a department of which he is now the head, providing opposition MPs who have challenged his appointment with further ammunition to embarrass Mr Heseltine.

Mr Davies said he would be asking the Secretary of State to explain whether the Government knew exactly what it was buying, and whether Mr Levene had any role in the original deal or the talks.

British wartime spy 'found in Australia'

From Tony Dubondin, Melbourne

A British spy, who infiltrated the Germans' wartime intelligence and was awarded the Iron Cross, has been found living quietly in a Melbourne suburb, according to an Australian newspaper report today.

The man, identified as Mr Charles Evans, aged 67, is said to have told his British masters when Hitler planned to occupy the Channel Islands, the date of the invasion of Russia - correct to within 24 hours - details of the German Enigma coding device and information on the V1 flying bomb and Tiger tank.

Mr Evans was recruited as a prospective "mole" by the British secret service at the age of 15 because of his linguistic ability - he spoke four languages - according to The Age newspaper, which carries an exclusive interview with him.

He was put through Heidelberg University, emerging as a doctor and with the cover story that he was a German who had been educated at Marlborough public school.

With that background, he was taken on by the German military intelligence and rose rapidly to become a Lieutenant-colonel.

Half the front page in today's issue of The Age is devoted to the story by reporter Kevin Childs, headlined "British 'spy' uncovered".

Inside are two pages of interview and details by British author and historian Mr Nigel West.

Mr Evans claims he broke his silence to clear the name of a friend of his father's, Sir Hugh Sinclair, an English admiral who first approached him with the prospect of recruiting him to the secret service.

Four months ago, Mr Evans wrote anonymously to Mr West objecting to parts of a book Mr West wrote on M16.

With only a Melbourne postcode and the few facts in the letter Mr West, aged 33, began tracking down the author. Appeals to newspapers

This morning's front page photograph in "The Age"

and television stations led to Mr Evans being identified.

In his interview with The Age Mr Evans also claims he warned Britain about the German spy known as Cicero who was operating in the British Embassy in Turkey. He says much of his information may have been ignored by the Allies because it was uncorroborated.

The Age says that elements of Mr Evans' story are uncheckable because the handful of people with knowledge of his German life, are dead. But the newspaper says that through independent sources it was able to verify much of what he said.

Mr Evans says being a doctor was a excellent cover because it enabled him to move about at night. He described spying as an over-glorified profession. "The only thing I nearly died of was boredom," he says. "I never fired a shot in anger."

He says his training for his mission was limited. "I told them I didn't know a dot from a dash. I was taught speed reading of 2,000 words a minute, and how to read upside down."

"My only purpose in contacting Nigel West was to get a retraction for Admiral Sinclair, who was an old family friend."

"Mr Evans says he was wounded in the leg while operating in Germany by a piece of British shrapnel from a low level strafing run."

Continued on back page, col 1

Reform of exams in White Paper

Examination reform and an increase in the number of parents on school governing bodies are proposed in a White Paper published tomorrow.

It sets out Sir Keith Joseph's plans to introduce a new AS-level examination, which would be studied along with A levels but cover only half the ground. The plan is for arts students to take a science AS level and for science students to take an arts AS level.

Universities are warned by the chairman of the grants committee that some departments must close otherwise whole universities will face closure under Government spending cuts.

Britain's biggest college lecturers' union is to hold its first national ballot for strike action if the employers do not improve their pay offer. Details, page 2

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Premier Portfolio

Education plans signal retreat over parent governors ratio

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Detailed plans for school education for the rest of the 1980s, including reform of A level examinations, are given in a White Paper to be published by the Government tomorrow. The document, the first comprehensive guide to what Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, would like to see happening across the whole range of education policy, is much more than a summary of his statements to date; it provides a blueprint for the future.

It contains details of what children should be taught under the heading of "technology"; it sets out Sir Keith's proposals for reforming school governing bodies; and it proposes a broadening of the sixth form curriculum by the introduction of new AS level examinations. The last proposal is probably the most controversial. All teachers' union are against the idea of AS level courses, which would be studied alongside A levels and take two years but only half the ground.

Sir Keith's idea is that the arts student would study for one or more AS levels in science to supplement his arts A level. Conversely, the scientist would take an AS level or two in arts subjects so that he, too, would end up with a more balanced education.

Only the universities have been in favour of the plan, and their approval has enabled Sir Keith to press ahead with it. Some examination boards are lukewarm.

The critics are not against the principle of broadening the sixth-form curriculum, but they are opposed to this plan because they say it cannot be implemented without extra resources and that it is too limited.

The Government wants the new examination to be in the traditional subjects of English, maths, French and economics and not in subjects considered more "woolly", such as general studies. Some of the critics also argue that an A level cannot simply be chopped in half.

The White Paper says that the number of parent governors on governing bodies is to be increased significantly, although parents will not be in a majority.

This represents a retreat by Sir Keith. He originally proposed that parents should be in a majority, but this met with a storm of protest, with only 33 out of 470 organizations in favour.

No one group will be in a majority, but local authority representation is being reduced so that parents will be on an equal footing. This is similar to the partnership formula set out in the 1977 Taylor Report, which proposed equal shares for parents, teachers, local authority and community representatives.

The White Paper will also propose that governors' powers on matters such as discipline and the curriculum be strengthened.



London roost: Shags have chosen the southern buttress at Hungerford Bridge in London as their daily roosting site when they are not fishing near by. The first sighting was made earlier this year (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Closure threat for universities

By Our Education Correspondent

Universities are being told they must shut some departments or whole universities will face closure to cope with government spending cuts.

The warning comes from Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the University Grants Committee (UGC) which pays money to universities. He says universities will continue to have their budgets cut, in real terms, for the rest of the 1980s.

Moreover, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, will go on expecting the universities to do new things without extra money, he adds. The extra damage will be to departments, not to universities.

"To do this with minimum damage to individuals and minimum disruption will involve cooperation between universities."

"If closure of individual departments turns out to be impracticable, then the likely consequence will be the closure of some complete universities."

Sir Peter's thoughts, divulged to his own committee and to the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals last week, paint a very bleak future for the universities.

He says that in his judgment Sir Keith has rejected his committee's advice that universities should receive level funding.

"For the rest of this decade, the best guess I can provide is that the increase in grant will be 2 per cent per year below inflation," he says.

The position will be made worse by the fall in value of the student grant, which is already causing fewer school leavers to go into higher education, according to Sir Peter.

Spelling out the thinking behind the University Grants Committee decision to re-examine the way it allocates money he explains that if the UGC does not do it, Sir Keith will.

"The Secretary of State is determined to concentrate research funding in the departments that do the best research, though I think he recognizes that this will take time to achieve."

"But if the UGC appears to be making no serious efforts to this end, he has an alternative. He can shift money, £200 million for example, from the UGC to the research councils and leave them to distribute it between universities."

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Public sector unions plan pay struggle

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Leaders of public service unions meet tomorrow to plan what many predict will be a serious pay confrontation with the Government next year.

The meeting at the TUC headquarters of representatives of 4 million workers has been called to draw up a joint strategy to oppose the Government's successful policy of limiting pay increases by tight cash limits.

Despite rumblings of discontent in some areas in the current round, notably the Civil Service, unions believe that any big challenge will come in the next round, as it is closer to the next General Election.

Tomorrow's meeting will be asked to draw up a framework for wider co-operation on pay claims, to secure a common settlement date and agreement on a "core" claim, which would include a demand that increases at least match retail price index increases and that deals should

incorporate shorter working time. The all-union public services meeting was agreed at last September's TUC congress in Brighton, although there have been criticisms from some unions that the TUC has dragged its feet because it did not want to be seen spearheading a direct challenge to the Government.

The conference will take place against the background of a slight rise in the level of public service pay offers and settlements.

The 900,000 local council manual workers agreed a deal last week which gives £4 across the board over 10 months and which on an annual basis is thought to be worth about 6 per cent.

A 5.2 per cent deal for colliery managers and deputies is likely to be the pace-setter for the public sector, with all eyes this week on the railway talks.

PAY ROUND DEVELOPMENTS				
Group	Nos	%	Effective from	
Engineering workers	2m	5.14-5.18 on min. rates	Nov	
Local authority manuals	900,000	4.7-5.7 over 10 months	Nov	
Shopworkers	1,031,000	6.3	Nov	
Civil Servants (white-collar)	500,000	4.5	Apr	
British Steel (manuals)	60,000	4.5	Apr	
Merchant seamen (officers)	45,500	3.25+2 consolidation	Jan	
Lorry drivers	150,000	5.4-5.6 on annual deals	Jan	
Jaguar (manuals)	7,000	8.5+6.4 2yr deal	Nov	
Ford (manuals)	40,500	+ £7 consolidation	Nov	
Colliery managers/deputies	51,000	5.2	Nov	
Nurses and midwives	450,000	Claim for "substantial" increase	Apr	
Teachers	440,000	Review body to report	Apr	
British Rail	140,000	4 rejected, selective action	Apr	
		"Substantial" claim and £100pw minimum	Apr	

Sharp rise in cost of conference centre

By Anthony Bevilas, Political Correspondent

Buried away in the small print of 18 volumes of Whitehall Supply Estimates published with the Budget last week, the Treasury has revealed a sharp rise in the cost of the Government's new international conference centre at Westminster.

In real terms, at 1985-86 prices, the cost of the building has increased by more than 16 per cent to £54,775,000, excluding the costs of fitting and furnishing. That figure might stir some controversy across Parliament Square.

A Commons motion to be published today could even add some fuel to the debate. Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, the Labour MP for Workington, passes the building every day on his way to and from the Commons and his considered view is expressed in an essay entitled, "Replacement of roadside cafes and taxi ranks".

His alternative title, regarded as somewhat too argumentative for parliamentary officials, was "The war on the face of Westminster".

The Campbell-Savours motion says: "House expresses its dismay, disbelief and outrage over the cluttered, dishevelled and ungainly appearance of the international conference centre at Westminster, which replaces a far more attractive all-night taxi stand and caravan cafe."

"Believes that this monstrous epitaph to the architectural excesses of the '50s and '60s is more reminiscent of the superstructure of an East European cruise ship, tacked up from the ramshackle wreckage of a Second World War tramp steamer."

"And hopes that architects who feel driven to expose themselves to ridicule and contempt might practise instead on either sandcastles, which cost somewhat less than £55 million in taxpayers' money and have an inbuilt obsolescence dictated by the tides, or on updating garden gnome construction and design."

For the moment at least, Mr Campbell-Savours is being forced to reserve judgement on another costly government building project in Westminster - Richmond Yard.

But the Treasury Supply Estimates did expose the fact that Richmond Yard has gone one better: in real terms, at 1985-86 prices, its cost has increased by more than 21 per cent to £31,882,000.

Labour 2% in front of Tories.

The Labour Party has noted two percentage points clear of the Conservatives since the Budget, the latest opinion poll disclosed yesterday. (Our Lobby Reporter writes).

The survey conducted by MORI for *The Sunday Times*, gives Labour 39 per cent, Conservatives 37 per cent, SDP/Liberal Alliance 22 per cent and others 2 per cent. It is the first time Labour has led the polls since last summer.

The Times overseas selling prices: America \$25, Belgium 175, Canada 25, France 150, Germany 150, Hong Kong 150, India 150, Japan 150, New Zealand 150, Norway 150, Sweden 150, Switzerland 150, Taiwan 150, Thailand 150, USA 150, West Germany 150, Yugoslavia 150.

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Teachers' strikes blamed for increase in truancy

By Richard Garner, of The Times Educational Supplement

A rise in truancy, coupled with playground strikes by pupils, is being recorded by schools in the wake of strike action by teachers over their pay, according to head teachers.

Speaking at Nottingham University at the annual conference of the Secondary Heads Association (SHA), Mr Michael Duffy, chairman of its education committee, said: "Any school will tell you that attendance has been damaged. I suspect we are only seeing the short-term effects of that now. Habits of occasional attend-

ance tend to get stronger as pupils get older."

The association, which has 4,500 members, is calling on the Government to take immediate action to break the deadlock in pay negotiations. This week will see an escalation of strike action, with the National Union of Teachers calling on 8,500 members in 52 local education authorities for three days from Tuesday.

The SHA also passed a motion "reacting angrily and explosively to the irretrievable damage being done to pupils", and urged all parties to resume negotiations immediately.

Mr Peter Saxe, the general secretary, told delegates that he knew of one school in Scotland

with 1,350 pupils where only 250 had turned up on a day when teachers had threatened industrial action, but the school had not been closed.

More councils opt for pay docking

More local authorities are deciding to dock pay from teachers refusing to cover for absent colleagues, in spite of the decision by the National Union of Teachers to take legal action against councils who do so (Our Education Correspondent writes).

A total of 20 councils, both Labour and Conservative, metropolitan and county, have now decided to deduct pay.

They are Barnet, Barnsley, Croydon, Doncaster, Merton, Newcastle upon Tyne, Rotherham, Solihull, Wigan, Norfolk, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Dyfed, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Dorset, Humberside, Hereford and Worcester, Nottinghamshire and Kent.

Mr Tony Williams, of the Council for Local Education Authorities, which has advised that covering for absent colleagues is part of the teachers' contract, said: "I suspect the NUT decided to go to court as a crude device to try to frighten local authorities. It has clearly not worked."

The NUT has announced that it is suing four authorities, Solihull, Newcastle upon Tyne,

Doncaster, and Croydon, and the case is expected to be heard in the next six weeks. It should decide once and for all whether covering for absent colleagues is contractual.

● The Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association (AMMA), is to join the industrial action. It will be instructing its 95,000 members not to supervise children in the lunch break from April 15.

AMMA will, however, be advising members to attend staff and parents' meetings, and to continue to cover for absent colleagues. Both these duties will be reviewed at the annual conference next month.

Parents as teachers, page 9

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Arts Council to award £3m in extra grants to regional companies

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council is to announce new grants worth £3 million to more than 40 regional companies on Friday with the hope that the money will dampen criticism of its funding policies and recover the momentum of its "Glory of the Garden" strategy.

The council has received a barrage of criticism since it passed on a 2 per cent general increase in grants from the Government to its clients earlier this year. But at least two of the companies who have signed a motion of no confidence in the council, the Leicester Haymarket Theatre and Sheffield's Crucible, are expected to do well out of Friday's announcement.

The low level of the Arts

Council's general settlement has led to growing criticism of the strategy, and it is clear that the council had considered postponing the policy but decided that any delay could threaten its existence.

The council's settlement from the Office of Arts and Libraries gave the council £3 million specifically earmarked for the regional development programme but a key element of that was the attraction of extra support from councils and private industry. The council had hoped to announce the grants a month ago, but the uncertainty surrounding local authority budgets with the rate capping measures meant that details could not be agreed until last week.

BBC1 may keep classical plays

By Our Arts Correspondent

The BBC is likely to reverse its decision to move a number of classical drama productions made for the *Play of the Month* series from BBC1 to BBC2.

The earlier plan, by Mr Michael Grade, controller of BBC1, provoked controversy within the corporation's drama department.

Six productions have been made for *Play of the Month*, now in its twentieth year, but Mr Grade said that he could find time to broadcast only one.

Mr Peter Goodchild, the BBC's head of plays, later said that two more plays would go out on BBC1, but it is understood that most of the productions will now be broadcast this summer. It is likely that the *Play of the Month* title

will be dropped, however, and that future classical drama will be made for BBC2.

The plays affected include a version of *Antigone* starring Sir John Gielgud, *The Fisher* with Dorothy Tutin and Colin Blakely, and *Vicious Circle*, starring Omar Sharif and Jeanne Moreau.

● The Home Secretary is expected to announce the BBC's increased colour licence fee this week. It is thought to be £55 for two years, £10 and 12 months short of the corporation's demand.

An inquiry into British broadcasting is also expected.

The BBC has been lobbying the Home Office to ensure that any inquiry covers the whole of broadcasting, including the ITV network.

The BBC's critics would prefer the inquiry to be convened, as soon as possible, along the lines of the Hunt report on cable television, and to be focused on the corporation.

One of the inquiry's areas of investigation will be the introduction of advertising to fund part of the BBC's operations. The level of the licence fee settlement may persuade the corporation that a limited introduction of advertising is in its own interests.

Its claim for a £65 licence included £5 for expansion, and it believes that any settlement below £60 will result in cuts in production staffs.

Broadcasting unions are already preparing to fight cutbacks.

News wars, page 8

Survey will log defects in housing

Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent

A register of all defects in local authority housing stock is to be compiled by the Department of the Environment based on questionnaires to be issued to housing authorities this week.

The decision comes after a meeting last Friday between the department, the Building Research Establishment and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. The association has criticized the limited extent of the establishment's investigations so far, which involved the examination of 36 prefabricated large panel systems over the next three years.

As many as 500 systems have been used since the late 1940s, and Mr Ted Cantle, under-secretary for housing at the association, told *The Times* that as much as £19 billion of defects would be revealed by the survey.

Mr Cantle described the questionnaire as a "wallpaper test", because it was so long and detailed in the information required to complete it.

Fewer houses started as interest rates rise

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

High interest and mortgage rates, with changes in housing demand have given builders a disappointing start to this year, with starts lower than for two years.

The January figures indicate starts 17 per cent lower than 1984.

The interim results of Barratt Developments, Britain's biggest builders, showing a large, albeit predicted, drop in profits have not helped.

Despite the abolition of the Budget of development land tax, which will help land supplies, the industry is suffering from a lack of confidence because of short-term uncertainty.

Barratt has suffered from adverse television publicity, and has been affected like other builders by the swing away from demand in the first-time buyer market in which it had plunged deeply.

It is probable that the first-time market has been saturated in the past two years and that these small units have a limited market. But the main difficulty has been to provide houses in this market, given the costs of building and of land, at an

affordable price. In many cases profits have been cut to a minimum.

Barratt is reducing starter homes from a peak of 75 per cent two years ago to between 40 per cent and 45 per cent next year, and other builders are following suit. That means fewer houses being built, since the trade-up market is smaller, although profits can be higher.

The House Builders' Federation, however, has rejected gloomy predictions, saying underlying trends were pointing to increased demand, and for every builder in difficulty there were more doing well.

Mr Roger Humber, director of the federation, said yesterday: "It is disappointing, but the dip in starts is highly regionalized and in the right areas, where builders are concentrating on the right market, particularly the trade-up market, they are doing well."

Mr Humber believed there were clear signs that later this year interest rates would come down, possibly sharply.

"When that happens, bringing confidence back, the latent demand will come through", he said.

Little Chefs to offer overnight rooms

Trusthouse Forte, Britain's largest hotel and catering group, is launching an experiment in cheap overnight accommodation its Little Chef roadside restaurants (Our Commercial Editor writes).

Two Little Chef "lodges" are expected to open later this year, subject to planning permission. If the trial succeeds others will open quickly.

In overall charge of only about £20 is likely for a double room with beds for a family of four. Rooms will have bath-

rooms, central heating and television, designed around a central corridor for security.

There are now 220 Little Chefs, mainly on major roads. Operated by THE staff, they served a record 19 million customers last year. Twenty two new outlets opened last year and THE plans to keep up this rate of expansion.

One Little Chef lodge is already open at Greta Green as an early version with single rooms at £17 a night and double rooms at £23.

'Suicide' by vicar in bonfire

A post mortem examination will be held today on the Rev John Smith, aged 60, who plunged into a bonfire in the back garden of his vicarage in Bagshot, Surrey, on Friday night.

The Bishop of Guildford, the Right Rev Michael Adie, who described Mr Smith as being under stress and strain, said yesterday that he appeared to have taken his life in tragic circumstances.

Consumer Congress 'Life skills' pack for schools

From Tony Samstag Brighton

The Government is to issue a consumer education pack for schools, Lord Lucas of Chilworth, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told more than 300 delegates at the tenth annual Consumer Congress at Sussex University yesterday.

The pack will have a "cross-curriculum emphasis" covering English, mathematics, home economics, business studies and life skills. It will cost £25,000 to produce and distribute and will include the Office of Fair Trading's publication *Fair Deal* and material on reading and understanding labels.

Lord Lucas said he would offer secondary schools the pack at the beginning of next month. It would be an aid especially to school leavers entering "a fiercely competitive world".

Delegates were told that legislation on false and misleading price information would be introduced to replace the Price Marking (Bargain Officers) Order and Section 11 of the Trade Descriptions Act. It would cover non-optional extras, such as VAT, postage

and packing and carriage charges, and misleading commission rates at bureaux de change.

"A general prohibition on false and misleading claims will be supported by a statutory code, admissible in evidence, and which will be determined will be written in plain English", Lord Lucas said.

Proposals in the White Paper on the safety of goods published in July were to be made law "at the earliest possible opportunity".

But Mr Michael Montague, the new chairman of the National Consumer Council, which subsidizes the two-day congress, criticized government policies. He called for the reinstatement of automatic disqualification of "delinquent directors" in the Insolvency Bill. The clause, to prevent directors of companies that had been compulsorily wound up from running another company for up to five years, was withdrawn last week in the face of strong opposition in the Lords.

Its removal was seen as an embarrassment for Lord Lucas, who replied that there was little to be gained lamenting its demise.

Mr Montague also called for

social security reforms, in particular to end "the present unjust discrimination against unemployed people on supplementary benefit for a year or more", and for urgent steps to save advice and information centres threatened with closure by rate capping and the abolition of the Greater London Council and metropolitan county councils.

He was most scathing about proposals to give ministers powers to impose financial targets on state-owned public utilities, such as electricity, gas and water. That would legitimize and encourage the use of monopoly industries "as a source of backdoor taxation". An emergency resolution condemning external financial targets for electricity boards as possibly illegal and certainly immoral was passed by a large majority.

Delegates also called for: ● Legal safeguards to protect bus services after deregulation, and a better deal for passengers.

● Improvements to the two million homes considered unfit for human habitation or lacking basic amenities.

● The extension of legal aid to social security tribunals.



Rally-ho! Members of the Chackmore Hunt, Buckinghamshire, riding on motorized tricycles yesterday in a 'Honda and hounds' event for charity. Their quarry was a marathon runner. (Photograph: Barry Beattie).

Judge opens campaign for homeless

Lord Scarman launches a three-year campaign today under the auspices of the United Nations to help homeless people in Britain and overseas (Tony Samstag writes).

Lord Scarman is president of a trust formed to co-ordinate British participation in the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, in 1987, directed at helping the 100 million people forced to sleep in streets and public areas.

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, 3 Endsleigh Street, London, WC1H 0DD. Tel 01-388 2117, 387 5721.

Pits strike hits sales of snuff

By Derek Harris Commercial Editor

Snuff sales in Britain last year declined by a tenth in volume, compared with the year before, and the Society of Snuff Grinders, Blenders and Purveyors blames the miners' strike.

In the past few weeks, since the strike petered out, the trade has started to bounce back, according to Mr Arthur Albin, the society's president.

"We fully expect sales to recover at least to their earlier levels," he said. "Now that cigarette prices have gone up again it could turn more people to snuff taking because it is so much cheaper."

Miners are big users of snuff because matches are not allowed underground. While sales of other tobacco products have been largely holding up, with British snuff production benefiting from a strong demand abroad, where English quality snuff is particularly prized.

Exports last year were up 1.5 per cent so that overall sales were down only by 4.4 per cent, at 507,423lb.

Last year, Britons sniffed away nearly 241,000 lb in about 500 blends. Snuff sells at between £1.50 and £2 an ounce, and that, for most who prefer this way of taking nicotine, is well

over a week's supply. Anybody smoking 20 cigarettes a day would be paying out four to five times that amount a week. There is no excise duty on snuff nor do the tins and packages carry any health warnings.

Sheffield and Kendal are the main snuff grinding centres.

UK SNUFF SALES IN LBS (including exports)

Year	Sales (LBS)
1979	536,000
1980	550,000
1981	546,000
1982	507,000
1983	531,000
1984	507,423

Source: Society of Snuff Grinders, Blenders and Purveyors

Gillick rule consent form urged for parents

The British Medical Association has welcomed a mother's efforts to help doctors who feel they are caught between the law and their medical duty by the controversial Gillick ruling.

Mrs Kerry Hamalainen of Darlington, Co Durham, has launched a campaign to introduce a consent form, to help doctors to deal with the ruling which bars them from giving contraceptive treatment or advice to girls under 16 years without parents' consent.

Her proposed consent form, signed by parents or guardians, would give doctors prior permission to advise or treat girls under 16.

Mrs Hamalainen, says her campaign is to protect what she calls the safety and rights of young girls and to allow doctors freedom to exercise medical judgement without fear of prosecution.

Last December the Court of Appeal upheld the view of Mrs Victoria Gillick, a Roman Catholic mother of 10 children, that it is unlawful to provide contraceptive services to girls below the legal age of consent, without telling their parents.

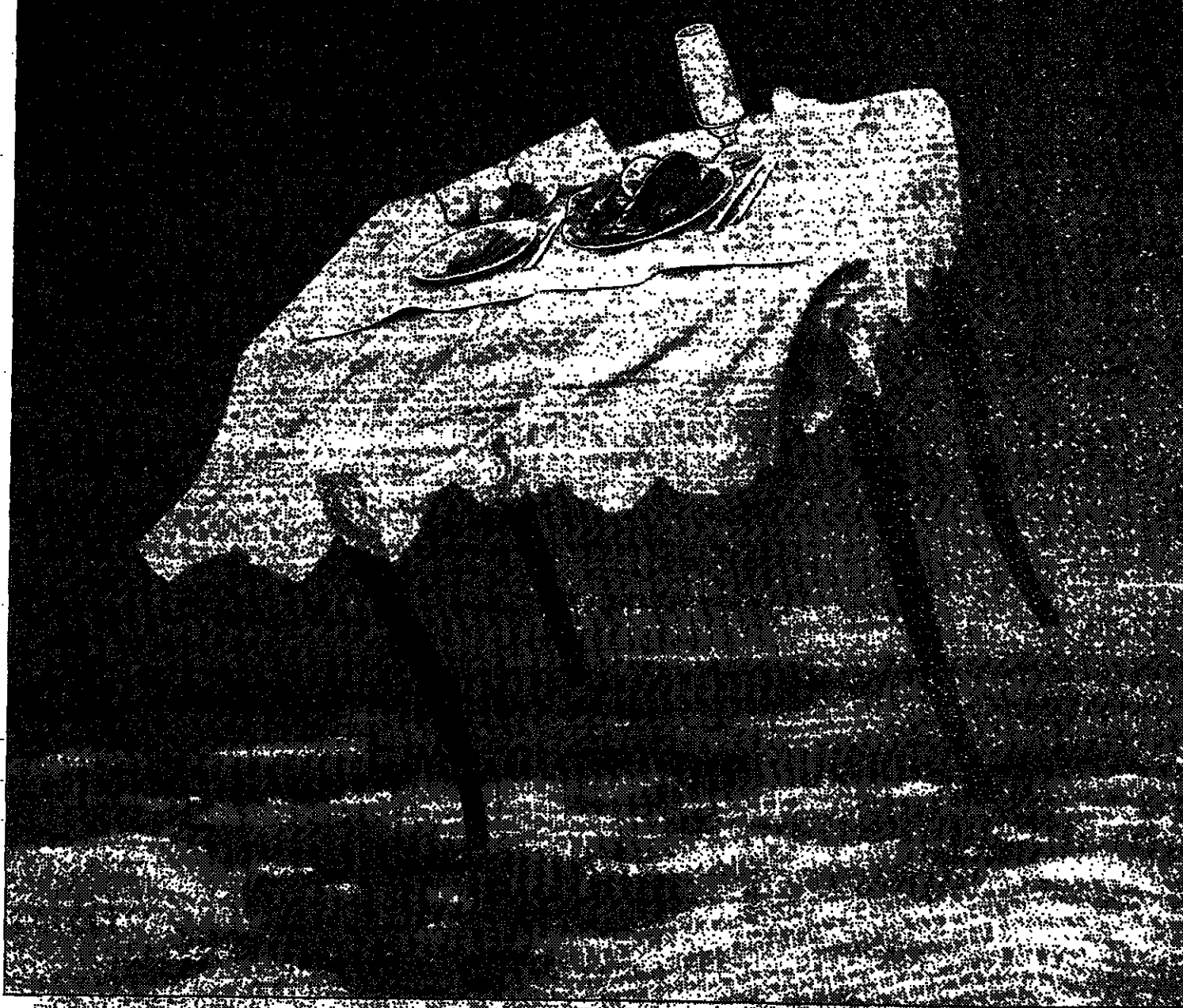
"Many doctors are concerned about the Gillick ruling", a BMA spokesman said.

The proposed form states that whatever "medical advice, treatment or referral" is considered necessary by the doctor should be given "in confidence, without any further recourse to me if the need should arise. I also expect you to encourage my daughter to seek my support and help if you consider this advisable".

Mrs Hamalainen, who has a daughter aged 12, emphasizes that she is not promoting promiscuity but wants to provide a safety net in case communication breaks down.

Her plan has the support of the Darlington Community Health Council and local doctors. The BMA and the Royal College of General Practitioners are considering it.

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Royal Navy's uncertain future

Ordering of new escort vessels must double to achieve target of 50

The Government is committed to maintaining about 50 destroyers and frigates in the Royal Navy. But with many ships approaching the end of their lives it will be able to sustain this target only by increasing its rate of ordering new ships. **RODNEY COWTON, Defence Correspondent**, examines the position in the first article of a two-part series.

The Government is going to have increasing difficulty in fulfilling its naval force policy. To achieve its objective over the next 10 years it will have to order escort vessels at twice the rate that it has done since it came to office in May 1979.

The Navy has 53 escorts — with three due to be withdrawn from service imminently — and is having considerable difficulty in meeting its commitments. During the past two or three years numbers have been kept up somewhat by running on ships which had been earmarked for disposal as long ago as 1981.

Although the commitment in the Falkland Islands is causing a big strain on the Navy's resources, the position is in one respect better than it might have been. That is because lessons learned during the conflict in the South Atlantic have led to some big improvements being made in the equipment of existing ships, and more especially of those ordered for construction in the last two years.

Nevertheless, unless the Government dramatically improves its rate of ordering new escorts the Navy faces the prospect of operating an increasingly aged fleet of destroyers and frigates with rising maintenance costs and diminishing effectiveness.

As a ship nears the end of its life, it does not simply "die" overnight unless it is involved in a catastrophe; it gradually wears out. This means it is nearly always possible to squeeze an extra year out of a vessel if necessary.

This year and next ships will

be disposed of which have had an operational life of 25 years. Nevertheless, most naval officers would regard 23 years as being about the limit of an escort's useful life.

Twelve frigates or destroyers, including three ordered by the last Labour government, are either on order, under construction or due to enter service within about 12 months. But these will be barely enough to ensure that at the end of the decade the position will be no worse than it is today, with about a quarter of the Navy's destroyers and frigates being at least 20 years old.

However, to secure in 10 years' time a force of destroyers and frigates all within a 22-year lifespan, the Government would have to order a further 17 vessels. Because it takes about five years to build and commission an escort these orders would effectively have to be placed in the six years between 1986 and 1991.

In nearly six years since the Government came to power, it has placed orders for nine new class frigates, the Type 23 "Duke" class. But four of these

are replacements for ships lost in the Falklands conflict, and as such are being financed by special subvention from the Treasury. The normal defence budget, therefore, is bearing the construction costs of only five escorts ordered since the Conservatives took office.

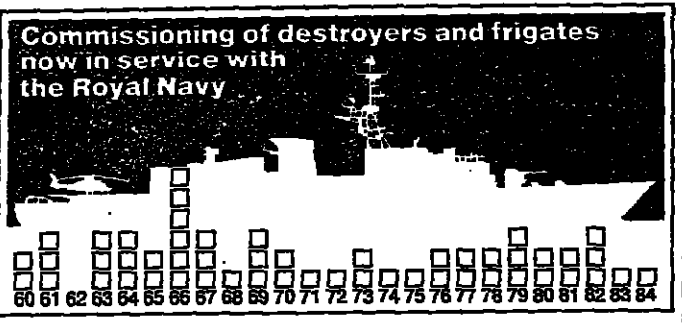
No more orders are expected to be placed until the middle of next year when the second of the "Duke" class is due to be ordered.

The maintenance of a force of 50 reasonably modern escorts into the middle-1990s, therefore, means not only that they would have to be ordered at twice the rate since 1979, but that resources would have to be found within the basic defence budget for three times as many newly ordered escorts as have been found in the last six years.

This need has been broadly recognized by the Government with ministers speaking of achieving a rate of ordering of three "Duke" class frigates a year. There has, however, been no official indication of how soon that rate might be achieved, nor for how long it could be sustained.

Such a rate of ordering has not been sustained over a long period since the mid-1960s. With the defence budget already under pressure, the prospects of it being managed during the remainder of this decade do not look good.

Tomorrow: Pressure on men and ships



Court plea on playing field sale

Runnymede Borough Council in Surrey is to be taken to the High Court by a group of parents today to prevent it selling a playing field.

The Central Council for Physical Recreation has listed 372 playing fields under threat from "ruthless" local authorities intent of selling to the highest bidder.

Local councils and education authorities are listing playing fields as "surplus to requirements" under the Land Act, 1981 even if they are not, the council says.

Mr Peter Lawson, its general secretary, said: "Surely it is absurd for the Government to be speculating upon selling the Olympic Games when they are doing their best to sell off a British sporting heritage."

Complaint over pigeon killing report upheld

A headline and report in a national Sunday newspaper about the killing of pigeons in a church belfry were unjustifiably extravagant, the Press Council said in an adjudication published yesterday.

The council upheld a complaint by the Rev Dr M. P. Moreton of Banbury, Oxfordshire, against the *Sunday People*. The report, headlined "Rector in row over bloodbath in his belfry", said that a rector plagued by pigeons in his church got a teenager with an air rifle and three of his friends to get rid of them. It said that 45 pigeons lay dead in the blood-drenched belfry.

Dr Moreton said the allegations were a gross misrepresentation. He had never authorized the use of an air rifle and he found no traces of blood in the belfry.

Mr Richard Stott, the editor, said the boys, when interviewed by a freelance reporter working

for the *Sunday People*, said they were acting with Dr Moreton's authority. He could not believe dozens of pigeons could be shot in a relatively confined space without leaving considerable evidence of bloodshed.

The Press Council said the inaccurate report should have been corrected.

A complaint by Dr Moreton against the *News of the World* was rejected by the council. "Vigorous and colourful" reporting had not been misleading and was justified in the circumstances, the council said.

The council said that the *Mail on Sunday* was irresponsible to publish the full home address and telephone number of the editor of the *Morning Star* intending to encourage readers to harass him. The *Morning Star* had been attacked for an earlier report which gave the full address of the founder of a men's wives' back-to-work campaign.

Support for 'moral right' to kill

Most people consider killing morally right in certain circumstances, according to a survey on the changing moral outlook of the British people.

Forty-five per cent of 822 people of all ages nationwide said it was right to kill a baby so severely handicapped it had no hope of a normal life. It was disclosed in the survey carried

out for Credo, London Weekend Television's religious and moral issues programme.

Sixty-one per cent said it was right to kill in self-defence, and 18 per cent, if a person broke into their home. Killing someone because they had killed a member of one's family was acceptable to 22 per cent, and

36 per cent thought it right to kill the head of an oppressive regime.

These questions showed little difference of opinion between young and old, but on sex before marriage, 53 per cent of those over 65 said it was wrong, and only 6 per cent of those aged 18-29 agreed.

Socialist win more likely in Greece

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The chances that Judge Christos Sartzetakis, the ruling Socialist candidate will be elected President of Greece later this week, increased perceptibly during Saturday's tumultuous second voting round in Parliament, when he received 181 votes. The Conservative opposition abstained.

Even more important, perhaps, is the fact that the informal Socialist-Communist alliance that made this result possible can use this enhanced majority to approve the Government's proposal for constitutional amendments which will transfer the presidential prerogatives largely to the executive.

Mr Sartzetakis did not receive the 200 votes he needed to be elected this time, but in Friday's third round, only a three-fifths majority of 180 votes is required.

He should be able to muster that, even without the Communist extra vote of the ruling President, Mr Yiannis Alevis, unless, of course, there is some backlash from within the ruling party against the humiliating methods used to ensure discipline during voting.

The Government party, the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), went to great lengths to discourage defections among its 164 deputies, eliciting strong protests from New Democracy, the opposition Conservatives. An opposition deputy lifted the Parliament's heavy wooden ballot box on his shoulder and walked out. The box was safely retrieved but the MP faces disciplinary action.

What outraged New Democracy most was that this time the ballot paper for Pasok's candidate was a conspicuous azure colour, so that prospective defectors could be easily spotted if they tried to insert the white blank into their envelopes, a task they are meant to carry out at their desks in full view of everyone.

Pasok was taking no chances, after suffering two defections in the first round. Its deputies were made to sit in the usual places but in the order in which their names were being called out, so they could be watched at all times. At least half of the 52 Cabinet members had been deployed in the chamber on the look-out.

Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the New Democracy leader, protested that these crude tricks flouted the vote's secrecy. He urged that a screen be used to ensure secrecy at next Friday's crucial vote. Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, rejected his protests and told his critics they had done worse when they were in power. The weekend pandemonium brought back disagreeable memories of parliamentary brawls and fistfights, common in the pre-coup days of 1967.

European Notebook

Statesmen, please — not fishwives

After an exceptional long spell of relative Community sunshine, the shadow of national elections is beginning to fall across the international dealings of the EEC.

The year 1984 was remarkable for the lack of change in Community governments. Only in tiny Luxembourg did the year begin and end with a different leader and that was only because Mr Pierre Werner retired. Everywhere else, even in Italy, there were no elections and EEC business was accordingly conducted without the nervous glancing over the shoulder at the electorate that characterizes many negotiations.

The British budget problem was resolved, the wine lake was dammed and the butter mountain scaled. Significant progress was made in bringing Spain and Portugal into the Community. It was possible to detect a rare spirit of compromise.

But polling days are here again. Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, has already served notice that he will keep Spain and Portugal out of the Community if he is not promised large sums of money and his Greek electorate will not forgive him for any weakness.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany is showing increasing signs of nervousness over the Land elections and his agriculture minister at this week's council meeting is being allowed to lead the EEC field in demanding extra money for farmers when it is in the Community's best interests to hold prices down.

In France, President Mitterrand is already campaigning to save face against an increasingly cocksure opposition before next year's national assembly elections. M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist RPR leader, whatever his faults, is the heir to a tradition that



The Pope urged governments to tackle youth unemployment when he addressed workers throughout the world yesterday via Italy's space communications station in the Abruzzo, south-east of Rome.

Nato chiefs consider strategy for lowering nuclear profile

From Frederick Bonnart, Brussels

General Bernard Rogers, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, who is due to present his plan for the reduction of battlefield nuclear weapons to Nato defence ministers this week, has been playing his cards close to his chest.

Nato's Nuclear Planning Group, which meets in Luxembourg tomorrow and on Wednesday, decides allied nuclear policy. In 1979, it prepared the decision to introduce Pershing 2 and cruise missiles into Europe while, at the same time, unilaterally reduce the stocks of 7,000 nuclear weapons by 1,000 warheads. It also decided that in addition, as the missiles are deployed, equivalent numbers of other nuclear weapons must be withdrawn.

At Montebello in Canada in October, 1983, the planning group gave the Supreme Commander a mandate to reduce them by a further 1,400 to 4,600 within six years.

Spaniards march defiant

From Harry Debelins, Madrid

Anti-Nato marchers by the thousands gathered yesterday at Torrejon, near Madrid, where the US Air Force uses a Spanish base, and chanted slogans against the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Placards and banners read "NATO NO", "Out with the bases" and "Regan non grata". People in the crowd shouted accusations against the Reagan

Administration's "bellicose policies" and said the Spanish socialist government was gravely irresponsible for keeping the country in Nato.

Organisers of the march chose the occasion to announce demonstrations would be held in various parts of the country on May 5, the eve of President Reagan's scheduled arrival for an official visit.

The Nike-Hercules nuclear anti-aircraft missiles are another category for reduction as they were intended to prevent attacks by massed bomber formations which is no longer considered a possibility. According to the defence official, they will be phased out as they

are replaced by conventionally armed anti-aircraft weapons.

Other obsolete material includes 8in and 155mm artillery shells, and aircraft bombs, some of them 25 to 30 years old. Modern shells have improved accuracy and reliability and are easier to transport, while new "dual-yield" bombs allow their power to be selected at will; this would allow reductions to be made with increased efficiency.

The plan is highly confidential and will not be made public, even after presentation to the ministers. The group will also review the security and survivability of the weapons stored in Europe. Protection arrangements against possible terrorist acts or sabotage will be examined, as well as, in a potential crisis, how to deal with bombardment and attacks by infiltrated special forces.



General Rogers: Plays his cards close to his chest

Danish coalition seeks power to end strike

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Denmark's Conservative Liberal coalition Government continues its quest for Parliamentary backing today for emergency legislation to bring to an end a big private-sector strike which began at the weekend, paralysing the country.

Political observers foresee that the Government would seek to stop the labour conflict, which involves 300,000 workers, before Easter.

The strike, which came after the breakdown last week of negotiations between the employers' federation and trade unions on a new two-year collective wage agreement, is absorbing power supplies, transport and distribution, food production, breweries, newspapers and much of Danish industry.

Already many of Denmark's 406 Baltic Islands are cut off, and Scandinavian Airlines and charter flights to and from Copenhagen airport have had to be diverted to West Germany, Norway, Sweden.

Craxi colleague held in bribery scandal

From John Earle, Rome

Signor Antonio Natali, chairman of the Milan underground railway company and Signor Massimo Perotti, head of the Government's development fund for the south, the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno, are among six people arrested on charges connected with bribery in the award of public contracts.

The arrests follow investigations into contracts for building part of the Milan underground as well as roads in various parts of Italy, awarded to Icomac, a company which went bankrupt in 1981.

Signor Perotti, known as a Socialist Party sympathizer, was president of the Cassa and was then appointed its liquidator when it was decided last year to wind it up.

Signor Natali is a Socialist leader in Milan and a political associate of the Prime Minister Signor Bettino Craxi.

According to the investigators Signor Natali is alleged to have received 300 million lire (£130,000) in connection with an underground building contract. The arrests swell the list of Socialist local government

administrators facing charges of financial improprieties, in places prominent figures in Piedmont, Liguria, Florence and Bari.

● **TERROR SHOOTOUT:** Two right wing terrorists were killed and two taken prisoner yesterday when police returned fire from a car whose occupants refused to show their identity documents at a roadblock at Alessandria, a provincial town in Piedmont.

On being stopped in a routine check, police said, the occupants opened fire and threw a grenade, wounding a policeman. The police reacted immediately, killing two terrorists. The other two, including a woman, said they were "political prisoners of the Nuclei Armati Rivoluzionari, a neo-fascist organization."

Soon afterwards the Milan office of an Italian news agency received a telephone call which said the NAR had lost two comrades, and threatened reprisals, with the words *attenti a Voi* (Look out for yourselves).

Notice of new rates from Nationwide from 1 April 1985

	Net
Share Accounts	8.25%
Flex Accounts	8.25%
Bonus-7 Accounts	9.50%
Super Bonus Accounts	9.75%
Bonus-90 Accounts	10.00%
Capital Bonds (24th Issue)	10.00%

The rate of interest on all existing Capital Bonds will be increased by 0.75% from 1 April 1985. The guaranteed extra interest paid on all existing Capital Bonds continues unchanged.

Subscription Share Accounts	9.25%
Deposit Accounts	8.00%

Mortgage Accounts—New Advances

The rate of interest charged on repayment mortgages for new owner occupier borrowers is 13.875% forthwith.

Mortgage Accounts—Existing Mortgages

The rate of interest charged on existing repayment loans for owner occupier borrowers will be 13.875% with effect from 1 April 1985 and the increased level of repayments will apply from that date, except where deeds specify a longer period of notice.

Higher rates arising from endowment and pension linked mortgages will continue to apply.

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Ian Murray

Fighting breaks out along Beirut front line amid rising anger and despair

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Lebanese Government, condemned the series of kidnappings of Westerners in the Muslim sector of Beirut and so, perhaps more importantly, did Sheikh Mohamed Hussein Fadallah, who is reputed to be the spiritual leader of the extremist "Hezbollah" Party of God movement.

But Mr Berri angrily drew a parallel between the American reaction to the kidnapping of Mr Terry Anderson, the Associated Press bureau chief abducted in Beirut nine days ago and the killing of a CBS television crew - both Lebanese - by an Israeli tank last week.

"I have tangible proof that the Israeli army fired at the Lebanese journalists from a distance of between 450 and 500 yards when they were trying to get into their car and there were no gunmen with them", he said.

... But Mr Reagan would not blame Israel even if it attacked all the journalists in the world... Reagan relieved the Israelis of any responsibility in this matter. Yet if an

American is kidnapped in Beirut, the entire world is turned upside down... and the United States spares no effort in dramatising the issue and blaming it on Shia terrorism."

Mr Berri, however, roundly abused the kidnappers of Westerners in Beirut as men who were un-Islamic and who were "distorting the image of the Islamic revolution in Iran". Why, Mr Berri asked, would any Muslim want to abduct French citizens - three were kidnapped last week - when France had voted with Lebanon in the United Nations to condemn Israeli behaviour in southern Lebanon.

In east Beirut last night, fierce street battles were reported between Phalangist militiamen as pro and anti-Gemayel factions fought with automatic weapons near Sassine Square.

President Assad of Syria earlier told President Gemayel that he would help him to crush the Phalangist mutiny. But he provided no clues as to how could honour such an undertaking.



Immigrants' anger: Falashas demonstrating in Jerusalem yesterday against a requirement from Israel's Chief Rabbi that all Ethiopians undergo a symbolic conversion upon arriving in Israel.

Four held hostage in bank siege

Tokyo - Gunmen took three employees and a security guard hostage in a Yokohama bank last night in a most unusual crime in Japan (David Watts writes). The workers were seized by two men as they deposited the day's takings from a race track. The gunmen demanded a getaway car from police who surrounded the building.

300 feared lost as ferry sinks

Dhaka (AP) - As many as 300 people were feared drowned after a ferry sank in the Bari Ganga river near here, according to local press reports.

The ferry, carrying more than 400 passengers, was hit by a storm on its journey from the south-eastern town of Chandpur to Dhaka. The reports said about 100 passengers were able to swim ashore and the fate of the others remained uncertain.

Angry town to erect statue

Rome - The town council of Legnano near Verona in the Veneto, stung by an insinuation in the play and film *Amadeus* that Antonio Salieri killed the composer Mozart, has voted to erect a statue in the main square to its most illustrious son (John Earle writes).

It also decided to organize a convention to vindicate Salieri's honour. A theatre, a hotel and a street already bear the musician's name.

Veterans robbed

Hardhearted thieves marred the emotional return of British war veterans to the scene of a Second World War victory (PA reports). They broke into three hotel rooms at Venlo on the Dutch-German border where the old soldiers were staying and stole about £500.

Bolivian deal

La Paz (AFP) - The general strike that paralysed Bolivia for 16 days was suspended after a vote by leaders of the Bolivian trade union grouping. A majority of delegates accepted a government offer to raise the minimum salary by 30 per cent.

Murder at fair

Lisbon (Reuters) - Gunmen who disarmed a police guard fatally wounded a Portuguese industrialist, Senor Alexandre Souto, in the International Trade Fair building in Lisbon. The motive is unknown.

British bridge pairs qualify for European final

From A Bridge Correspondent
Monte Carlo

The British contingent exceeded expectations when five of their pairs qualified for the final of the Philip Morris European pairs championship. In all, 85,000 Swiss Francs (about £27,000) is available as prize-money which goes down to 30th place.

Leaders after the first of the two final sessions were:

1. Andrea Boratti and Antonio Mortarotti (Italy) 1807.9; 2. Jan Fucik and Franz Terrane (Austria) 1773.7; 3. Paul Chemla and Michel Perron (France) 1764.2.

British placings before the final round are:

25 Kenneth Ford and Ian Swanson (Surrey) 1589.5; 27 Paul Hackett and Tony Sower (Manchester and Nottingham) 1588.6; 29 Prith Roy and Arthur Puckrin (north east) 1583.6; 41 David Walker and Uriah Jacobson 1550.9; 63 Ian Francis and Tim Dean (London) 1422.3.

Ohio's bank crisis ends with business as usual

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Without panic and only the barest of protest, hundreds of thousands of Ohio bank customers were given limited access to their nest-egg savings on Saturday. The crisis that closed Ohio's neighbourhood banks is proving as remarkable for its timid end as it did for its explosive beginning.

After a couple days of muddle and confusion, the Ohio state authorities finally produced new guidelines early on Saturday governing the operations of the 71 Ohio savings and loans banks, 70 of which were closed on the orders of Governor Richard Celeste last Friday week to stem panic withdrawals. The crisis was more one of confidence than substance.

The "cooling off" closures appear to have restored much of the confidence in the so-called thrift banks, whose customers are mostly middle-income families.

The new rules allow customers to cash pay cheques and withdraw a maximum of \$750

(about £240) every 30 days from their savings. Old people can now draw their direct-deposit social security payments. Families will be able to meet gas and electricity bills. Supermarkets and stores are again happy to accept savings and loan cheques.

The new regulations require the banks to seek federally backed insurance covering customers' deposits. The crisis began when one bank, Home State, collapsed over a shady financial deal that went wrong, endangering the security of thousands of family nest-eggs. Its problems infected all the other Ohio savings and loan banks and huge sums were withdrawn in a few days, threatening the stability of the entire system.

Before banks can reopen they must establish to the satisfaction of state authorities that they have enough assets to be eligible for federal insurance backing. At present nearly all the Ohio savings and loan banks have state-backed, private insurance.

Iraqi jets bomb two Gulf ships

Baghdad (Reuters) - Two oil tankers were hit by Iraqi air raids in the Gulf yesterday. There was no immediate reaction in Tehran to the reports that the Italian supertanker Volere and the Maltese tanker Eastern Star had been hit near Iran's Kharg Island oil export terminal.

However, hours before the attacks Iran announced it had stopped raids on Iraqi cities but would retaliate if Iraq attacked Iranian cities or shipping in the Gulf.

The Daily Iraqi war communique, released later in the day by the General Command of the Armed Forces, said Iraqi jet fighters and helicopter gunships launched 54 bombing raids against enemy positions.

The communique said the warplanes destroyed five riverboats and a multiple rocket launcher.

Iraqi gunners, shelled Iranian positions and forces across the 733-mile front killing 18 soldiers in addition to destroying six military vehicles, two machine-gun emplacements, two infantry bunkers and an anti-tank cannon. Iranian gunners, meanwhile, shelled the southern Iraqi provincial capital of Basra.

Party ready for stormy congress

By Our East Europe Correspondent

Hungary takes stock of reform

Communist Party bosses and delegates from throughout Hungary gather in Budapest today for a potentially stormy congress on economic reform, the first big event on the Soviet bloc calendar since the Kremlin succession of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov.

Party congress meet only every five years and are often a forum for fierce debate about the future direction of the country's policies.

Last Friday, Moscow ruled out the possibility of its adopting Hungarian-style measures to encourage private enterprise. But Mr Gorbachov is known to favour economic reform, and the Soviet leadership will be carefully watching the four-day congress.

The Hungarians will therefore move cautiously. Official guidelines for the congress issued last December make it clear that economic reform will be the main topic and that Hungary will not abandon its liberal economic policies.

There are essentially three themes to the congress. First, the communist party will have to reassure Hungarians that living standards are not being eroded seriously by the reform.

Prices have risen steeply - the latest increases were in January - and many Politburo members have had to visit factories in the past few months to damp down the discontent.

By most measures Hungarian living standards have dropped since the last congress in 1980.

Officials have tried to deny this, but the powerful head of the Budapest Communist Party machine, Mr Karoly Grosz, has attacked these denials and admitted to the deterioration.

Second, a big problem is how to make economic reform effective in Hungarian heavy industry. Unlike the agricultural sector, steel and other industries are still too inefficient and clumsy to compete on world markets. Strong lobbies resist the idea of breaking up industrial concerns into smaller units.

Finally, the leadership is expected to introduce new, younger blood. Most of the leaders have served for many years with Mr Janos Kadar, the party chief, who has been in power since 1956.

Archbishop urges Romero inquiry

From John Carlin
Mexico City

On the fifth anniversary of the killing of the Archbishop of San Salvador, Mgr Oscar Romero, the present Archbishop, Mgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, has called for an investigation to bring his assassins to justice.

Mgr Romero was shot

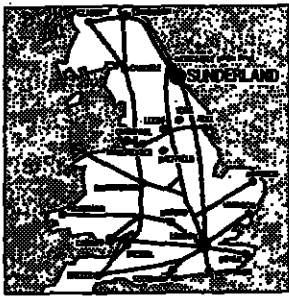
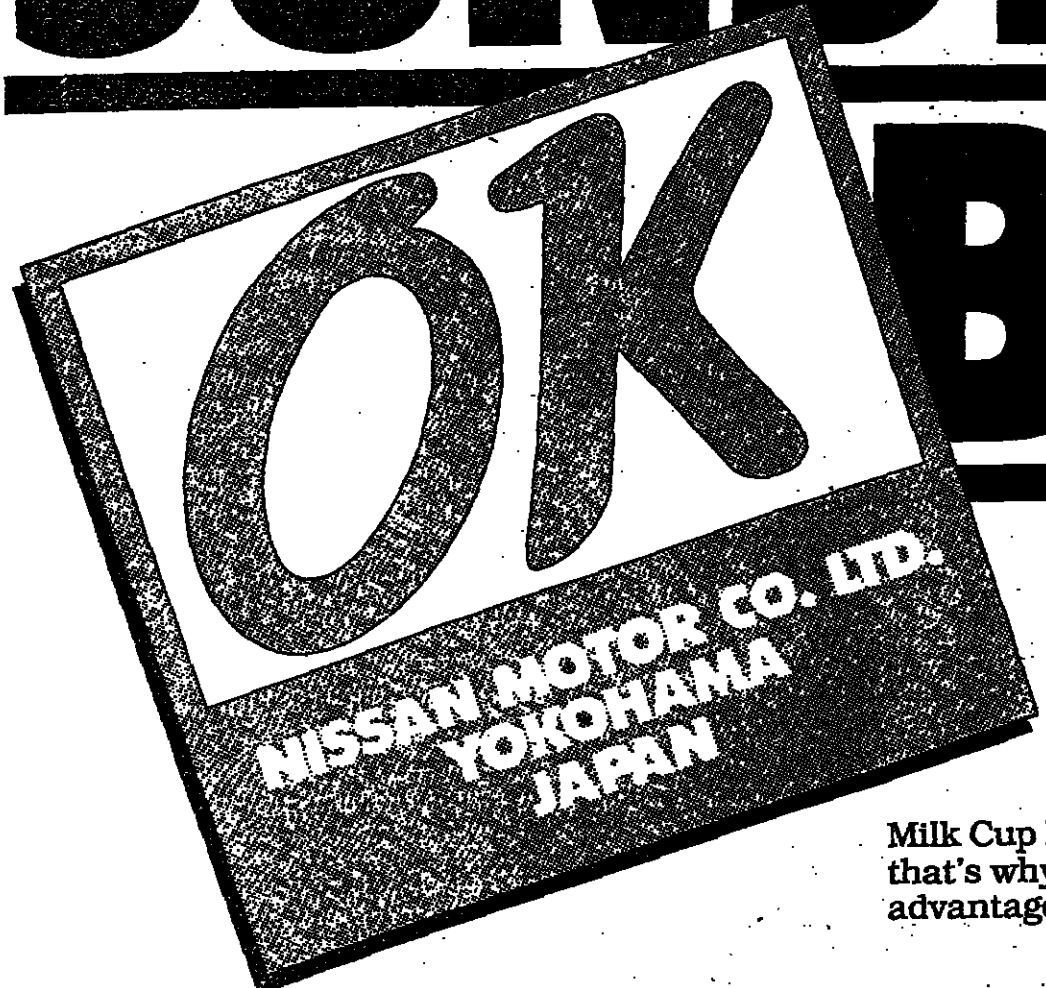
through the heart while saying Mass on March 24, 1980. All the indications are that his assassins were members of El Salvador's notorious right-wing death squad.

Mgr Rivera y Damas said in his Sunday homily at San Salvador Cathedral that "to investigate this death and also the countless numbers of others

in these terrible years of political violence is an indispensable requirement to build peace."

After the Archbishop's Mass, more than 5,000 demonstrators marched through San Salvador bearing placards calling for "punishment of the assassins of Mgr Romero".

SUNDERLAND'S OK BY NISSAN

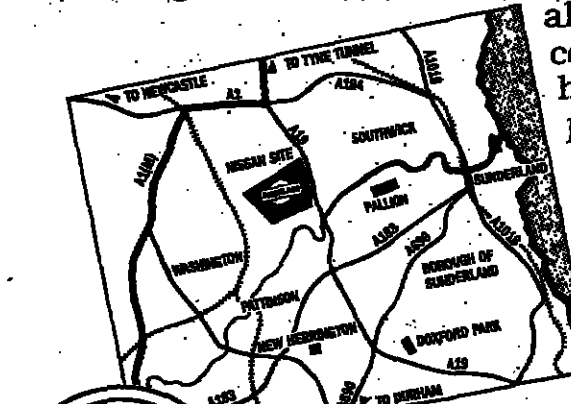


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Full Kremlin diary could dash hopes of an early US-Soviet summit

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The chances of an early summit between President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev appear to be receding as the Kremlin diary for April and May begins to fill up.

But Moscow remains interested in the idea, which will be discussed by Mr George Shultz and Mr Andrei Gromyko when they meet in Vienna in mid-May to attend celebrations marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Austrian state treaty. The Kremlin noted at the weekend that 1985 was a year of anniversaries which should be used for high-level political contacts.

Diplomats said much would depend on progress at the Geneva arms talks over the next month. The first round of the new talks on space weapons and nuclear missiles ends on April 23.

Pravda yesterday took a gloomy view, noting that Moscow had called for "reasonable compromises" on both sides, but Washington was "still far from taking a realistic approach" at Geneva. Leading figures in the Reagan Administration were captives of the dangerous illusion that an American arms build-up would "force the Russians into retreat".

The Soviet Central Committee is expected to hold a plenum at the end of April, at

about the same time as the first round of Geneva talks end, according to informed sources. Mr Gorbachev will make personnel changes at the top and define future Soviet policy at the plenum, they say.

This will be followed by Mr Gorbachev's appearance on Red Square for May Day, nationwide celebrations marking "Victory Day" on May 9 - the fortieth anniversary of the defeat of Nazism - and a Warsaw Pact summit, probably in Poland, in the middle of May. The Warsaw Pact meeting was postponed during President Chernenko's illness, and is seen by the Gorbachev leadership as a high priority.

Combined with the Gromyko-Shultz meeting in Vienna and the resumption of Cabinet-level Soviet-American trade talks in Moscow on May 20 after a gap of seven years, this crowded Kremlin diary "does not leave much time for summity", as one Western diplomat put it at the weekend.

On the other hand, "Victory Day", the Warsaw Pact summit and the trade talks could all pave the way for a Reagan-Gorbachev summit in the early summer, sources say. Soviet sources had earlier suggested that the celebrations marking the defeat of Nazism would provide an "ideal opportunity" for reviving the spirit of the

wartime alliance at summit level.

Some diplomats suggest that celebrations in Helsinki in August marking 10 years since the signing of the Helsinki accords could provide both the occasion for a summit and a neutral venue. But Western sources say Mr Reagan takes the view that the Helsinki agreements have not provided much to celebrate over the past decade and had to some extent worked to the Russians' advantage.

Observers say that in any case both Moscow and Washington appear to agree that the issues dividing East and West require a summit earlier rather than later. The last was in 1979, when Presidents Carter and Brezhnev met in Vienna.

On Friday Mr Gorbachev told a socialist international delegation in Moscow he would give Mr Reagan's invitation to hold a summit a "courteous response".

A communiqué said 1985 was a "special year" in view of the new Geneva talks, the anniversaries of the end of the war and the Helsinki accords, and the 40th anniversary of the United Nations. The year should therefore be marked by "political contacts at all levels" to consolidate confidence between states in the spirit of détente.

Reagan holds Congress lead in MX cash battle

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan appears to be holding on to a narrow congressional lead in his battle for approval of \$1.5 billion (about £1.28 million) for 21 additional MX missiles.

His insistence that cutting the programme would undermine America's bargaining strength with the Soviet Union in Geneva has proved to be a devastating political trap for Democrats.

The missile remains widely popular in the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives but the latest counts show that President Reagan should get his way. There will be two House votes this week, one on whether to approve the purchase of 21 more missiles, the other on appropriating the money.

The President said in his weekly radio address on Saturday that "vital weapons systems, either conventional or strategic, must not be touched" in any budget compromise with Senate Republicans. He has left open the possibility of only the narrowest accommodation on overall Pentagon spending.

The MX has cost \$13 billion in 11 years. Twenty-one have been authorized so far and are in production. If Congress gives the request for a further 48 missiles, costing \$6.5 billion, out of the 1986 budget, it is extremely rare for a US President to be denied funding for a requested weapons system.

Mr Reagan's hard-line radio address came a day after he agreed to begin negotiations with Senate Republicans aimed at reaching agreement on the new federal budget.

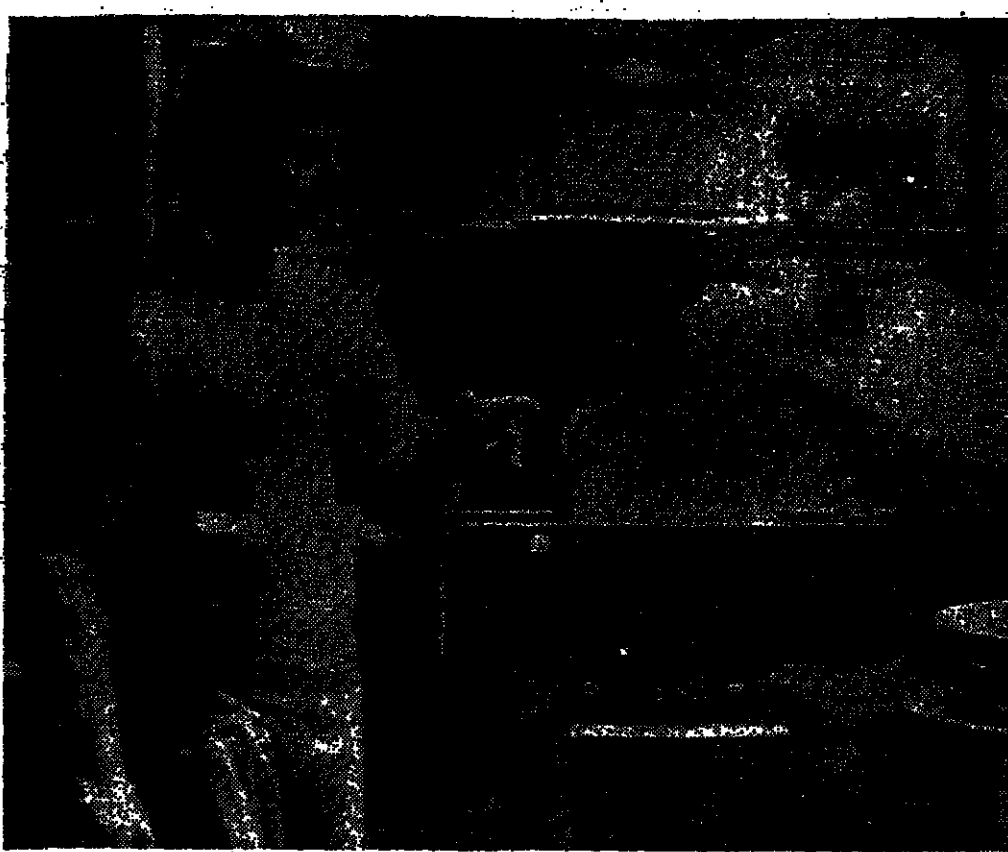
South Africans denied view of TV showdown

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africans have been denied the opportunity to watch the most controversial of the Nightline programmes broadcast from Johannesburg last week by the American television network, ABC.

It included a discussion between Dr Connie Mulder, an extreme right-wing white politician, Dr Allan Boesak, a coloured clergyman and prominent figure in the United Democratic Front anti-apartheid movement, Chief Gatsba Buthe, the Zulu leader, and Mr Oliver Tambo, president of the banned African National Congress.

The South African Broadcasting Corporation ran fairly full excerpts of some of the earlier panel discussions.



Under wraps: Two Ciba-Geigy technicians in Basle, Switzerland, preparing to test dioxin waste taken from the contaminated Italian town of Seveso.

MPs reject Speaker nominee

Zia gets hint of defiance

From Michael Hamlyn, Islamabad

President Zia's nominee for the job of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Muhammad Khan Junejo, was confirmed unanimously by the newly-elected National Assembly yesterday, and the country embarked formally on its controlled return to democratic institutions.

The Assembly, elected in a highly successful general election last month despite a boycott by the coalition of opposition parties, has made it clear, though, that it is not going to be a wholly docile tool of the martial law regime.

Much to everyone's surprise, the members refused the man who was first put up as Speaker of the House, and instead elected a younger man, Syed Fakher Iqbal, who has no experience in any kind of political assembly. His inexperience showed yesterday when he allowed a procedural wrangle about the confidence resolution to meander on for two hours.

Both Mr Junejo and the man first nominated for Speaker, Khawaja Muhammad Saifur, are members of the Muslim League faction led by the eccentric holy man, Mir Mardan Shah, the Pir of Pagara.

The Pir was anxious to demonstrate his power as the leader of the party with the largest group of MPs in the

House, but other hardened political operators were evidently anxious also to make their mark.

They included at least three former members of the largest opposition party, the Pakistan People's Party of the last and late Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. As a result of their activities, backed by a large number of young new members of the Assembly, the Pir's nominee was defeated by only eight votes, 119 to 111. The idea of a contested election for the Speaker has no precedent in the history of the Assembly.

It is, however, quite widely suggested that the revolt of the young men was not necessarily to the distaste of President Zia, since he is reported to have been anxious to take the Pir down a peg or two as well.

There is however no doubt about the devotion of the new Prime Minister to the Pir. In irreverent political circles it is suggested that the last job the Prime Minister had was picking up the money that was showered on his holy master whenever he appears in public.

Mr Junejo is a wader, a major feudal landlord of the desert lands in the interior of the southern state of Sind. He was a minister in the government of an earlier chief martial law administrator who became president, General Ayub Khan.

Yesterday, addressing the Assembly in the yellow-carpeted chamber, which is dominated by a huge oil painting of Jinnah, the founder of the nation, he promised his best efforts to an early end to martial law, and assured his listeners that corruption would have no place in his administration. He promised further development of the Islamic system into a fully Islamic welfare state.

Mr Junejo will name his Cabinet, he told correspondents, "in stages", presumably starting with those ministers still in place from President Zia's old Cabinet.

Since all the main leaders of the opposition parties are still under detention, there has been little sentiment contrary to the general pleasure at the restoration of at least partly democratic government.

The one exception is Air Marshal Asghar Khan, leader of the Tehrik-i-Istiqal, who, from his remote fastness in Abbottabad, said yesterday that "this March 23 has been a sad day, since MPs took the oath on that day for a one-man constitution".

March 23 has an emotional significance for Pakistan, as it is the date on which, in 1940, the Muslim League passed the resolution calling for establishment of separate Muslim states after independence.

The transatlantic partnership between the United States and its European allies is about to be subjected to the most severe strain it has endured since the alliance was established. This was the dominant impression I formed at the annual Anglo-German Kongsberg conference last week of politicians, diplomats, academics and journalists. Sometimes there was a distinct undercurrent of anti-American sentiment. More generally there was an air of transatlantic fatalism.

One of the principal reasons for this was the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI). The prevailing wind at Kongsberg was overwhelmingly hostile to the project, and I am not thinking only of the opening address in which President von Weizsäcker of West Germany which went as far as constitutional niceties would permit to express his scepticism.

The conference confirmed my belief that politicians and diplomats on both sides of the Atlantic will have to take the greatest care if the disagreements on this issue are not to do irreparable damage to the alliance. They present a greater threat than the disputes over Euro-missiles have ever done because so many European policymakers and opinion-formers are opposed to SDI, whereas the critical divide over the missiles was between alliance-minded governments and a section of their own public.

But transatlantic fatalism today is not simply the reflection of disagreements on a single issue. I noticed at Kongsberg, as I have done elsewhere, a widespread acceptance that American and European attitudes are bound to differ, that Europe on longer matters so much to the United States, that it is perhaps unreasonable to expect the Americans to keep their troops in Europe indefinitely and that it would be natural for the bonds which tie the United States to Western Europe to become weaker.

One would not quarrel with all these propositions. Europe does not figure so highly as it once did in the list of American priorities: American interests have become more dispersed, and the Pacific region and Latin America are bound to claim more of their attention. Within the United States, power has moved west and south away from the Atlantic seaboard which naturally looked first to Europe.

This has bred on the European side a sense of inferiority and a mistaken belief that European voices are never heard in Washington. So the threat to the partnership from both sides of the Atlantic is more than a passing irritation over a specific point of difference.

What is not so widely appreciated is that the partnership nonetheless remains as necessary as ever. A continuing firm American commitment to Western Europe is required to preserve the balance of power in the whole of Europe. Without such a balance not only the military, but the political, diplomatic and psychological security of Western Europe would be undermined over a period of time.

One heard quite a bit of Kongsberg about developing the dialogue between Eastern and Western Europe. That is becoming a fashionable theme these days, which is not surprising at a time of improving relations between the superpowers. Such a dialogue is desirable in human terms; it might, more uncertainly, contribute to international peace.

It was interesting that over East Germany, the West Germans seemed to be concerned above all to strengthen the human contacts, whereas it was some of the British who pressed the case for reunification.

Pan-Europeanism is not an alternative to the Atlantic alliance for the security and stability of Western Europe. Rather, it is the other way round. The stronger the Atlantic alliance the more safely can Western Europe pursue contacts with Eastern Europe.

But does the alliance still matter so much for the United States? I believe that it does. American interests may have diversified but they still need friends as well as business associates in the world and the psychological loss on the other side of the Atlantic would be enormous if the United States could no longer rely on a sense of partnership with Europe.

Diplomatic monogamy would not be practical for either the United States or Western Europe but both will suffer if either is careless about the relationship.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Flying to Saudi Arabia: some sobering thoughts.

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Seoul holds 12 Chinese sailors after gunfight on torpedo boat

From David Watts, Tokyo

South Korea was last night holding 12 crewmen of a Chinese torpedo boat after a gunfight on board. The Koreans are holding the Chinese sailors because their boat strayed into South Korean waters during the incident. Reports in Japan and South Korea said shooting broke out when at least one of the crew tried to defect to Taiwan. Three other Chinese naval vessels which entered South Korean waters in search of the first were forced out by the South Korean Navy. The Foreign Ministry in Seoul lodged a "stern protest". Later, the South Korean Information Minister, Mr Lee Won Hong, contradicted the earlier reports, saying "no political reason was involved". The Chinese have called on the South Koreans to return the boat and crew as soon as possible. South Korea and China have no diplomatic relations and are negotiating the return through Hong Kong. Mr Lee's statement appears to be pitched to avoid embarrassing Peking at a time when the two countries are trying to build unofficial trading and other links. Ironically, an earlier diplomatic embarrassment helped to speed that process when a Chinese airliner was hijacked to South Korea. Negotiations over the fate of the hijackers and passengers necessitated the first government-to-government contacts. The hijackers served sentences in South Korea and were then expelled to Taiwan - their original destination. The Chinese protested but it was largely pro forma, both sides recognizing the diplomatic benefits the hijackers had brought them. The Chinese contacted the South Korean consulate in Hong Kong when the torpedo boat went missing and Seoul agreed to help find it.

US novelists' secret mission

Writers wrangle with Jaruzelski

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Two of America's most popular contemporary novelists, Kurt Vonnegut and William Styron, embarked last week on a secret literary mission in Poland to help revive a writers' association banned by the Jaruzelski Government. Both writers are members of the international PEN Club, which had a much respected Polish branch until it was closed down by the authorities in August 1983. The Government suspected that the club would become a springboard of intellectual opposition to General Jaruzelski. Leading members of PEN such as Mr Andrzej Szczypiorski - author of *The Polish Ordeal*, a candid account of recent political history in Poland - had been interned without trial after martial law was imposed in winter 1981 and were frequently included in official roll calls of "anti-socialist" writers. The club, which groups some of the world's best writers, refused to acknowledge the ban. The Polish authorities put it in the hands of temporary administrators who were shunned by most club members, and the tugging and pushing with the Government then began in earnest. Even a meeting between the international chairman of PEN and General Jaruzelski failed to bring results. Enter Vonnegut and Styron.

Vonnegut, his face creased as shoe leather, the author of *Slaughterhouse Five* - about the fire-bombing of Dresden - and luscious comic novels, some of which are best sellers on the Polish underground book market. Styron, author of *Sophie's Choice*, the story of a Cracow woman trying and failing to come to terms with her stay in Auschwitz.

There were to be no rabbits pulled out of top hats on this mission, though. Both authors let it be known that the international PEN club was still backing the Polish branch's stands against the authorities and that the condition for reviving the club was that it would have a "democratically elected praesidium".

As they found out in their pilgrimage through the cramped salons of Warsaw, Gdansk and Cracow, this rather begged the question. A new democratic PEN praesidium can be elected only by a general congress, a general congress in turn can be convened only when the authorities lift their ban; and the authorities want safeguards that the club will not end up as a haven for dissidents.

The practicalities of a communist state soon swept away the larger problems: Uncertainty about telephones; was it diplomatic to approach X? where was Y? Then Ersatz coffee, litres of it, late night licit. The stuff of fiction.

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The road from Selma: Rights marchers fleeing troopers in 1965 and (right) Jesse Jackson, today's pre-eminent black protester.

Tension beneath the images of progress

Twenty years after the historic confrontation over civil rights in Selma, Alabama, Christopher Thomas reports from Washington in the first of two articles on conflicting attitudes among blacks in the United States.

Something strange is happening in black America - strange paradoxes and contradictions, a mixture of unprecedented racial harmony and worsening black-white tension.

Blacks have advanced in almost every sphere, especially education. The growing black middle class is moving steadily to the white suburbs. And yet the voice of black extremism becomes ever louder.

Blacks increasingly fall into two well-defined social categories, those large numbers climbing steadily into a better

life, and those screaming the familiar language of anger and frustration. The leadership of the former is well defined. The battle to head the latter has only just begun.

BLACK AMERICA Part 1

The Rev Jesse Jackson has had a profound influence on black America. He is a man of protest, rather than politics, and it is as the pre-eminent black protester that he is important.

His function has been to organize blacks into a constituency of protest. Therein lies the seed of what is now growing - a movement of protest that is in

danger of slipping away from the moderate hands of Mr Jackson into the grip of opportunistic black extremists.

Mr Jackson is in a sense the most isolated of the predominant black leaders of America - isolated because he captures votes solely because he is black. His tone is rarely interracial. He teaches only the politics of race.

The other weekend blacks held a peaceful rally in Selma, Alabama, where 20 years ago 600 civil rights marchers were confronted with tear gas, bullwhips and brutal club-wielding police on horseback.

America was horrified. It was the turning point for black politics and black protest. The Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act followed. The work of the civil rights movement of

Martin Luther King was, in the main, done.

Selma, once a model of racial separation and bitterness, is today a model of the advances made in 20 years.

But behind this progress there are images of tension. Mr Jackson stirred up the black electorate of America last year, and they turned out in exceptional numbers for the Democratic Party - whose many Southern members were openly racist until less than a generation ago. Mr Jackson inspired a new level of black participation and political awareness.

Others - extremists in the main - are making capital out of it. The name Louis Farrakhan, the Black Muslim leader, is being heard loud and clear in black America. Like Mr

Unemployment January 1985: Blacks 14.9%; Whites 6.4%. Teenage Unemployment January: Black men 40.6%; Black women 44.5%; White men 18.8%; White women 15.4%. Median family income 1983: Blacks \$14,506; Whites \$25,757.

Poverty levels 1983: Blacks 9,885,000 (35.7%); Whites 23,874,000 (12.1%). (Poverty is defined by a variety of calculations. For a family of four, for example, an income of about \$10,000 is deemed to be in poverty.) Life expectancy at birth: White males 70.5 years; white females 78.1 years; black males 65.3 years; black females 74 years.

Infant mortality: Whites 11.9 deaths per 1,000 births; blacks 22.8 deaths per 1,000 births.

Jackson, he is a protester, not a politician. Like Mr Jackson he is an oratorical wizard. Unlike Mr Jackson, he is no moderate. Louis Farrakhan is the incendiary voice of black extremism. Tomorrow: Farrakhan's role

Menzies attacked as atom test stooge

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

The Australian royal commissioner, who headed the inquiry into Britain's nuclear testing programme in the early 1950s, yesterday severely criticized Sir Robert Menzies, Australia's Prime Minister at the time.

Mr Justice James McClelland, who has recently returned from London where the commission has been sitting, described Sir Robert as a "lickspittle of the British". As far as Sir Robert was concerned with the British it was a case of "ask and thou shalt receive", he said.

Speaking on the television programme *60 Minutes* yesterday Mr Justice McClelland said that information was withheld from Australia.

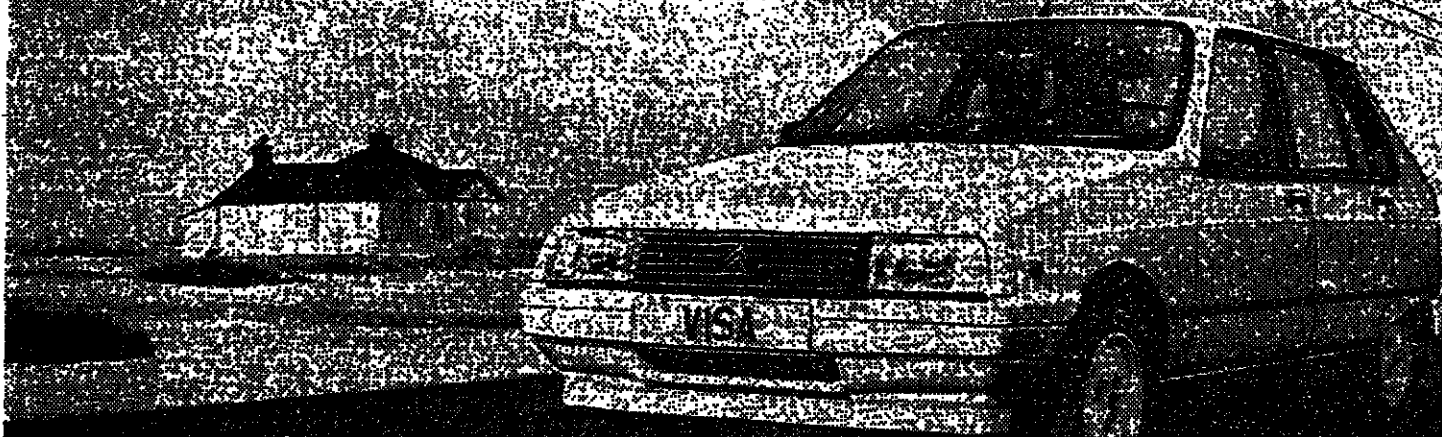
Asked if he achieved what he wanted to achieve when he set out, he said: "We got more information even than we hoped for. It had to be priced out with a pneumatic drill but none the less we finished up getting it."

He said there was some evidence before the commission of laxity and negligence.

The Royal Commission into British tests was set up last July and heard evidence in Australia as well as visiting some of the test sites before going to London. It will continue its hearings in Australia and is expected to report some months passed its June deadline.

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The children in a class of their own

Nearly 8,000 pupils in Britain will not be attending school

today but they are not playing truant. Sally Brompton

investigates the kitchen classrooms, where parents are teachers

Joanna Guthrie was seven years old when her parents took her away from school.

Her mother, Sarah, had been growing increasingly concerned about Joanna's neurotic behaviour which was caused, she felt, by a particularly dictatorial teacher. Three years at school had made Joanna, previously a friendly healthy child, nervous and physically ill. So, rather than allow her to continue becoming "more and more cowed by authority and subservient to adults", Sarah decided to teach her herself.

With no teaching qualifications or experience and just four O levels to her name Sarah's decision must have seemed cavalier. Certainly her friends and family thought she was being unrealistic and irresponsible. Even her husband Brian, a BBC local radio producer with an academic background, was nervous about the possible implications.

I'd taught her how to walk and talk and I wanted to continue?

Sarah, however, was convinced she could do at least as well as the authorities. "I'd taught Jo how to walk and talk and now I felt I wanted to continue her education", she says. Nine years later, she is still teaching Joanna - now 15 and preparing to take eight O levels - as well as her younger sisters, Alice, 9, and Lydia, 4.

Sarah Guthrie's go-it-alone attitude is becoming increasingly common among parents teaching their children at home. It is a growing threat of drugs and brutality - both mental and

physical - in schools. Some disapprove of traditional teaching establishments for religious, philosophical or moral reasons. Others simply want to share their children's early years.

Sometimes if a child is particularly below or above average a parent will decide it would be better off at home - as in the case of Ruth Lawrence, accepted by Oxford to study mathematics at the age of 12 after being educated by her father. She recently came top of her first year at university with the highest marks in living memory.

In Britain, an estimated 7,000 to 8,000 children are being taught by their parents. For while education is legally compulsory in this country, school, as such, is not. If the authorities are satisfied that a child is receiving "efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs he may have", they have no option but to allow the child to be "educated in accordance with the wishes of (his/her) parents".

Home educators point to the importance of continuity and stability in a child's life during its formative years, and emphasize the dangers of children being forced to spend all their time "doing" rather than "being".

"You've got to find the balance between being academically correct and inspiring children's enthusiasm", says 42-year-old Sarah Guthrie. She feels, for example, it is a mistake to teach a child to read at too early an age. While Joanna learned to read at four, her sister, Alice, taught herself when she was eight "and I notice there is a tremendous difference in their ability and their approach to reading".

Sarah Guthrie, in common with many parents embarking upon teaching their own children, began in a very structured way "doing" what we had to do certain things every day". Soon she realized that "learning is so much a part of living that it is much better to be relaxed and do things as they occur".

Her main difficulty is that her children are all at different stages of development. "Lydia will be playing by herself so I'll grab Alice and say 'let's practise your tables' and tell Joanna to go over the Latin we did yesterday and then the coalman might arrive and we'll have to start all over again."

She avoids text books preferring to get interesting books from the library or jumble sales. A wonderful book about the geographical evolution of Britain made her enthusiastic about geography - a subject she had always hated at school.

Lessons are held mainly in the kitchen of the family's home on the Norfolk/Suffolk border. "It's easier to co-ordinate things at the stove", says Sarah. "It is time-consuming because I have to think about it all the time but because the girls are at home there's plenty of flexibility."

Sarah Guthrie's teaching methods are based on the spiritually-aware philosophy of Rudolf Steiner. When I started I did everything by instinct. Now I read everything I can lay my hands on", she says.

When Alice decided that she would like to see what school was like, her parents sent her to the local Steiner school. Alice was not impressed. "She didn't like having to do things at a time dictated to her by a grown up", says Sarah. "And she hated having to stop doing something she was engrossed in to go out to play."

The Guthries were recently

given the official stamp of approval by the area education officers who visited them for the first time in eight years. If a child is not registered in the state education system - Joanna had been deregistered when her family moved from London to Suffolk - there is no obligation for the local authority to be informed that he/she is being taught at home. Attitudes - and often criteria - vary from authority to authority. Suffolk and Norfolk, accepted habitat for those seeking alternative lives, are reputedly more understanding than some of the ones in the south. Indeed, there have been several court battles between authorities and parents about how the children should be educated.

The most celebrated involved Mrs Joy Baker of Norfolk whose children were taken into care in the middle of the night. She eventually won the right to educate her children at home

Education is compulsory in this country; school is not?

after several years of legal battles and believes her example enabled today's parents to do the same.

"Our responsibility is to ensure that a child is being suitably educated", says Mr Tom Cornthwaite, Suffolk's deputy county education officer. "We believe it is important to form a good relationship with parents."

"We don't worry too much about teaching qualifications. It is more important that parents have an awareness of the child's developmental needs and can listen to advice and be prepared



Sarah Guthrie and daughters, finding 'the balance between being academically correct and inspiring enthusiasm'

to call in specialists if necessary."

The most frequent criticism of home education is the lack of group activities and the chance to make spontaneous friendships. Tom Cornthwaite says: "We always ensure that children have an opportunity to meet others in their age group, and to be members of a team."

Social isolation caused Joy Pardo to send her 12-year-old daughter Tanya back to school after a year of teaching her at home. "She found she was losing touch with her old friends and not making any new ones", says Mrs Pardo, a qualified teacher and wife of former Liberal MP, John Pardo.

Apart from that - and the lack of facilities for subjects like science - the experiment was highly successful. "The flexibility was marvellous", says Mrs Pardo. "I wish that more parents would do it because then each parent could specialize in a particular subject and teach a whole group of children."

Sarah Guthrie admits that isolation was indeed one of her worries but in fact Joanna has plenty of friends her own age - most of them at school. "It just means that social activities have to be contrived that bit more. Joanna sings in the local choir with some other teenagers and there are drama groups, sports clubs, Brownies and Guides."

Her eldest daughter spends one day a week working with a local sculptor. For the parents, there are many rewards in keeping their children at home. They form far closer relationships with their youngsters in their formative years and become far more aware of their needs and emotions. They don't have to organize their lives around the school timetable. And, of course, there are the forgotten - or, possibly never-experienced - delights of learning themselves. Once they have acquired the taste, many of them - including Maire Mullarney, Sarah Guthrie and Janet Everdell - go on to take Open University degrees.

A different kind of education

In 1977 some parents formed a self-help group called Education Otherwise to assist them in clarifying the legalities of educating children at home, as well as to offer support, advice and practical information.

It is currently run by 42-year-old Janet Everdell, who took her own son, Nick, out of comprehensive school shortly before his thirteenth birthday. An exceptionally bright boy, Nick was a year younger than the rest of his class and was bullied by the other children.

"I was very worried about him because he was having terrible nightmares and it was beginning to affect his health", says his mother. She and her husband, a disillusioned teacher turned gardener, were interested in educational psychology and followed the views of the late A. S. Neill, founder of the progressive school Summerhill.

"I told Nick that there are different ways of being educated and that any time he felt he couldn't stand the bullying any more he could come out", says Janet. "He decided for himself."

Nick spent the next three years studying for his O levels by correspondence courses. "It did take me a few months to adjust to not going to school", admits Nick, now almost 20. "There is a certain amount of security in the system even though I was very much isolated by the other kids when I was at school."

"He behaved a bit like a fugitive at first", agrees his mother. "He felt he was a social failure."

Even so, Nick found it far easier to study at home than he had in his emotionally-fraught state at school. He joined the local athletics club and by the age of 14 had gained enough self-confidence to go on a cycling holiday around the

Cotswolds by himself. The only set-back came when the local education officer told him he might as well admit that he was going to fail his O levels. "I was upset by what he said", says Nick. "It destroyed my confidence."

It took him several weeks to recover sufficient enthusiasm to resume his studies and he eventually passed seven O levels. He took three A levels at technical college and is currently reading Natural Sciences at King's College, Cambridge.

Today, Nick admits: "If I had my chance again I wouldn't go to school at all. And if I have children they definitely won't go anywhere near a school."

"I greatly admire my mother for having had the courage to do what she did. It also brought us much closer together because she had a much larger hand in my upbringing and education."

Says Janet, who has two other grown-up children who received conventional schooling: "Knowing what I now know about schools, I would never send a child to one again."

"The unnecessary discipline, the idea of using homework as punishment and the sheer time-wasting such as trooping from one class to another, is ridiculous. It's much more natural for a child to work at his own pace. When Nick started on an exercise he would work on it for three days until he'd cracked it."

"He also learned a lot more besides his O level subjects. We'd listen to *World at One* together. When he found out he could answer all the questions on *Top of the Form* he started listening to *Brain of Britain* instead."

Education Otherwise, 25 Common Lane, Hemingford Abbots, Cambridgeshire PE18 9AN. (Please send 9ins x 4ins. s.a.e.)

Eleven pupils at home

Maire Mullarney took up the challenge of educating her children at home more than 30 years ago. In her case it began through necessity since she and her accountant husband, Sean, were living without transport in an isolated cottage 12 miles south of Dublin.

Maire, a former art student and state registered nurse, had an inbred dislike and mistrust of schools which stemmed from her being sent to boarding school when she was five. She welcomed the excuse to keep her own children at home during their years. Maire then discovered she enjoyed the whole experience so much that she continued to teach them from choice.

Basing her teaching methods on those of Maria Montessori, who believed that a child should be allowed the freedom to learn at his own pace with a minimum of adult interference, Maire educated her 11 children up until the ages of eight or nine.

She would have kept them at home longer if they had not needed to learn Irish in order to go to university or even get a job. In retrospect, Maire, 63, admits: "I think most of them would have been better off if they had stayed another few years at home."

Even so, nine of them went on to either university or colleges of further education, and Maire now has four grandchildren who are also being taught by their mothers.

Maire's method of teaching took advantage of everything around her. Flowers, trees and kitchen utensils became implements of learning. Even weighing out the ingredients to bake a cake could be transformed into a compelling arithmetic lesson.

"I'd recommend home teaching for all average parents", says Maire. "After all, it's the way the human race has always carried on." To help and encourage others sharing her views she has written a book documenting her own experiences and those of her children in the controversial field of home education. *Anything School Can Do You Can Do Better* will be published by Fontana on Thursday at £1.95.

"After some 18 quiet years of child-watching", she writes in the introduction, "I had come to realize that school was a time-wasting and inefficient attempt to enable one generation to share knowledge with the next."



Maire Mullarney with a photograph of seven of her 11 children

Why do the British prefer the patter of tiny paws?

A childhood game of my generation was to divide people we knew into cats and dogs or buttons and horses. Visiting Italy last week, a new variation suggested itself: categorizing countries into children and animals.

Italy is definitely in the children listings. The place is peppered with No Dogs Allowed signs, especially in the parks and municipal gardens which are often reserved for the use of children under 12 and their minders.

Even though the weather was balmy and peach-scented, nearly every woman, whatever her age, didn't so much wear a fur coat as flaunt one. Italian furs, compared to English ones, are as Joan Collins is to Penelope Keith, not exactly

classy but cut and shaped and coloured and patterned in very startling ways.

Sometimes they are worn with matching fur mufflers of whole animals complete with beady-eyed heads and little paws which seem to give the two-claw sign to the entire animal liberation movement as the fur's owner sashays down the street.

Equally upsetting to the over-sensitive are the butchers' shops which do not attempt to make their window displays decent with paper frills and plastic parsley and have a very delicate way with labels - "milk-fed" lamb for instance, seemed tasteless, in all senses of the word, compared to our English euphemisms of "spring" and "tender".

The Italian attitude towards animals was first brought home to me when I took a friend from Verona for a walk in Richmond Park. Passing the famous deer, he asked if they were there all the time. Told they were, he explained that such a thing would be impossible in an Italian park as eager punters would very quickly convert the deer into venison with a particularly delicious sauce of dried mushrooms.

The English are unusual in regarding animals as something attractive to look at in their live state. Italian zoos haven't got the hang of this concept at all. Unlike our own inmates who live in ritzy cages designed by Lord Snowdon and Sir Hugh Casson, hippos and tigers and parrots who have the bad luck to be captured into Italy soon acquire the expression of glazed suffering seen on wallflowers at a party. And no wonder, for their design for living is of the tacky breeze-block and peeling concrete type where they languish unphotographed and unnoticed.

Italians give all their love and attention to children, not just their own but everyone else's too. During my visit, a woman carrying a small child walked into a hotel which catered exclusively for businessmen and immediately the clerks stopped telephoning, the guests stopped hunching over calculators, flower charts and tiny cups of black coffee and everyone went into a heartwarming routine of chinning and the Italian version of Round-and-round-the-garden-like-a-teddy-bear.

This is not the sort of thing one can imagine happening in this country.

The British are firmly in the animal category. Which means that those of us who prefer children spend a great part of our lives scooping up babies from the path of oncoming



PENNY PERRICK

Alsations which are allowed the run of every street and park. Animals are regarded as endlessly fascinating and more often than not are the subject of the final item on *News at Ten*, dogs who can operate computers with their noses and ducks who can skate being considered as worthy of the viewing audience's attention as the war in Lebanon.

Children who can perform equally clever stunts are marked down as precocious and told to shut up. When someone asks you whether your baby is "good", she means he is quiet, docile and asleep more often than awake. The perfect baby, in fact, is one whose existence both his parents and the world in general can forget all about for hours at a time. If your baby is indefatigably curious about the world and loves adult company, everyone pities you for having given birth to such an exhausting handful. I have never heard a British person say that their child is their best

friend or grand company, compliments frequently paid to dogs - cats and budgies. A typically English scene after all, is the country pub complete with a Labrador, its legs at an unpleasant angle, chewing its fleas by the fire while no child, however well mannered, is allowed in.

A friend of mine showing off her pretty new baby girl to hospital visitors was initially rather upset when one of them said: "She's quite lovely, reminds me of one of my pups", until she realized that this was the ultimate compliment.

It is hard not to feel outraged during moments when the animal rights lobby receives more publicity than the forced closure of premature baby units. On the other hand, it is perhaps easier to come to terms with our own Animal Liberation Front than the Italians' Red Brigades.

Sir Terence Conran, the new boss of Richard Shops, is making a mistake in trying to extend the fashion chain's glossy new image to its sales staff. Replacing assistants of average looks with those of model-girl gorgeousness may not prove to be a canny customer-relations

The pleasure goes right out of shopping when one enters a store to find pretty young sales-girls prancing about in the shop's current merchandise in at least two sizes smaller than anything one is about to try on oneself. So it is very unlikely that I will patronize Sir Terence's fashion emporiums until he does the decent thing and staffs them with comfortable-looking ladies of a certain age with tape-measures round their necks and pin-cushions strapped to their wrists, who are willing to let you try on armfuls of garments and, when you have made your choice, say with genuine pleasure: "Why, madam, that really suits".

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THE TIMES DIARY

Quietly into freedom

Dennis Goldberg, a former leader of the African National Congress, who has just been released by the South Africans after 22 years in prison, slipped out of London last night after an unpublished reunion with his wife, Esme. It was their first meeting in 14 years. Mrs Goldberg, a physiotherapist, with a British passport, has lived in London since his imprisonment, and expects him to settle in Britain eventually. Goldberg is now in Zambia, but she refused to disclose his business there. Asked if he met Foreign Office officials while in London, she insisted that she knew nothing of his political activities. However, it is believed that Goldberg, South Africa's longest-serving white political prisoner, will be refused a renewal of his ANC membership, because, to secure his release, he renounced violence, as required by President Botha's amnesty offer. Out of touch with ANC leaders, Goldberg effectively isolated himself from Mandela and other prominent black prisoners by accepting Botha's terms. When freed, Goldberg confessed to "a deep yearning to see his family again".

Left turn

Who will be the first Labour MP to suffer deselection? Not a moderate, oddly enough, but probably a good Bannister left-winger, Norman Atkinson of Tottenham is likely to be ousted by the harder-left Reg Race, the former Wood Green MP who lost out to Atkinson when their constituencies merged in 1983. Race is now a £20,000-a-year Ken Livingstone sidekick at County Hall, while his wife, Mandy Moore, has recently become Tottenham constituency party secretary. Ms Moore, in turn, is tipped for the neighbouring Hackney North seat, currently held by 72-year-old Ernie Roberts. At last — the prospect of a Labour husband-and-wife team to do battle at Westminster with those Bottomleys and Wintertons.

Club sandwich

The Garrick Club will soon have nothing left to hide. In her godforsaken book *Men*, Anna Ford recalls overhearing a member being complimented by a woman on the ubiquitous faded pink and soft green Garrick tie. "My God, please don't call me pretty," he squeaked. "This is if you recognise it, it is only like this because the committee were choosing a club tie over tea, and in desperation over the colour were suddenly inspired by the sandwiches they were eating. Cucumber and salmon."

BARRY FANTONI



Taking off

An excited PR for Rothschild's merchant bank rang to give me the "exclusive" that Lord Rothschild's big sister, Miriam, has been elected Fellow of the Royal Society. "She's a world expert on parasites and mimics," Mimmy? "Yes, I believe she's very good at doing voices." I rang Lord R to ask how he felt about having a 76-year-old answer to Mike Yarwood in the dynasty. Mimmy, he explained gently, is the means by which, for example, stick insects make themselves look like sticks and flies disguise themselves as wasps.

Media blitz

Doubtless sick of being the brunt of media jibes, Neil Kinnock slipped into the Royal Court last week to see *Deadlines*, a play devoted to deriding the media. Alas, poor Kinnock; within minutes last year's Labour conference was re-enacted, with the token BBC reporter musing "Neil Kinnock seems to be a term of abuse." I am told Kinnock laughed manfully.

So much for the iron maiden of monetarism. A *Wall Street Journal* editorial on the Budget refers to "Mrs Thatcher's socialist government." No mistake, says Brussels-based leader writer, Seth Lipsey. "There's still a great deal of state-ownership and economic intervention in Britain."

On your toes

The Royal Opera house magazine reports that only 50 Friends of Covent Garden can be accommodated on its £600 trip next month to see the Kirov and the Bolshoi perform in Russia. "More than 150 people have applied to go on the trip and a ballot will be held to decide the lucky ones." Is this fair to the older and less agile?

PHS

Manchester's eastern promise

by Alf Morris

When she visits Singapore early next month, Margaret Thatcher had better be aware of the precise terms of that country's Air Service Agreement with Britain. If she is not fully briefed, she will get the bird not only from the Government of Singapore but also, as I learned on a recent visit, from some leading members of the British community there.

For a Prime Minister who told the House of Commons that she spent part of her Christmas recess wading through the Stansted Report, it should not be too strenuous a task to master the essentials of the UK-Singapore agreement. In hard summary, it provides that neither government will lay down in advance the number of air services to be operated between the two countries. The airlines of Singapore and Britain were left to decide, in the light of commercial judgement, how many services to operate.

However, while Singapore has honoured the agreement, Britain has now defaulted by imposing unilateral constraints on Singapore Airlines (SIA). It has done so in a way that demonstrates total contempt for the growing number of MPs, on both sides of Parliament, who have warned the Government to bridge the yawning divide between north and south in Britain.

SIA first applied to start a new route to Manchester in February, 1983, and again in September, 1984, because of a huge increase in passenger traffic between Singapore and the UK. Since 1976, when daily B747 services between Heathrow and Singapore began, the number of passengers had grown by 67 per cent from 173,000 to more than

290,000 in 1983. In the same period, cargo had grown by 145 per cent. So the application, apart from being premature, was seen as overdue. But why Manchester?

In full accord with the agreement between the two countries, SIA chose Manchester for good commercial reasons. The city's international airport serves 20 million people in an area containing 60 per cent of Britain's manufacturing industry. Direct access to the vast markets of the Far East would provide new opportunities for an area of the UK badly stricken by recession and where, in many localities, male unemployment now exceeds 50 per cent. In many parts of Manchester, more than two-thirds of the under-25s are on the dole.

SIA also sees Manchester as the natural gateway for passengers from the Far East (where increasing affluence is providing a large new market for travel) to the tourist attractions of North Wales, the Peak District, the Yorkshire dales and the Lake District. Happily, they do not regard tourism to Britain as synonymous with travel to London and the South-East.

The Manchester International Airport Authority reckons there would be 19,000 passengers bound for Singapore (and a further 19,000 going beyond Singapore) in the first year of the new service. The authority also knows that SIA does not start new services unless it is sure they will be commercially viable. It is also recognized that SIA's promotion of the new destination for tourists and traders throughout its world-

wide network could produce considerable benefits for the north of England as a whole.

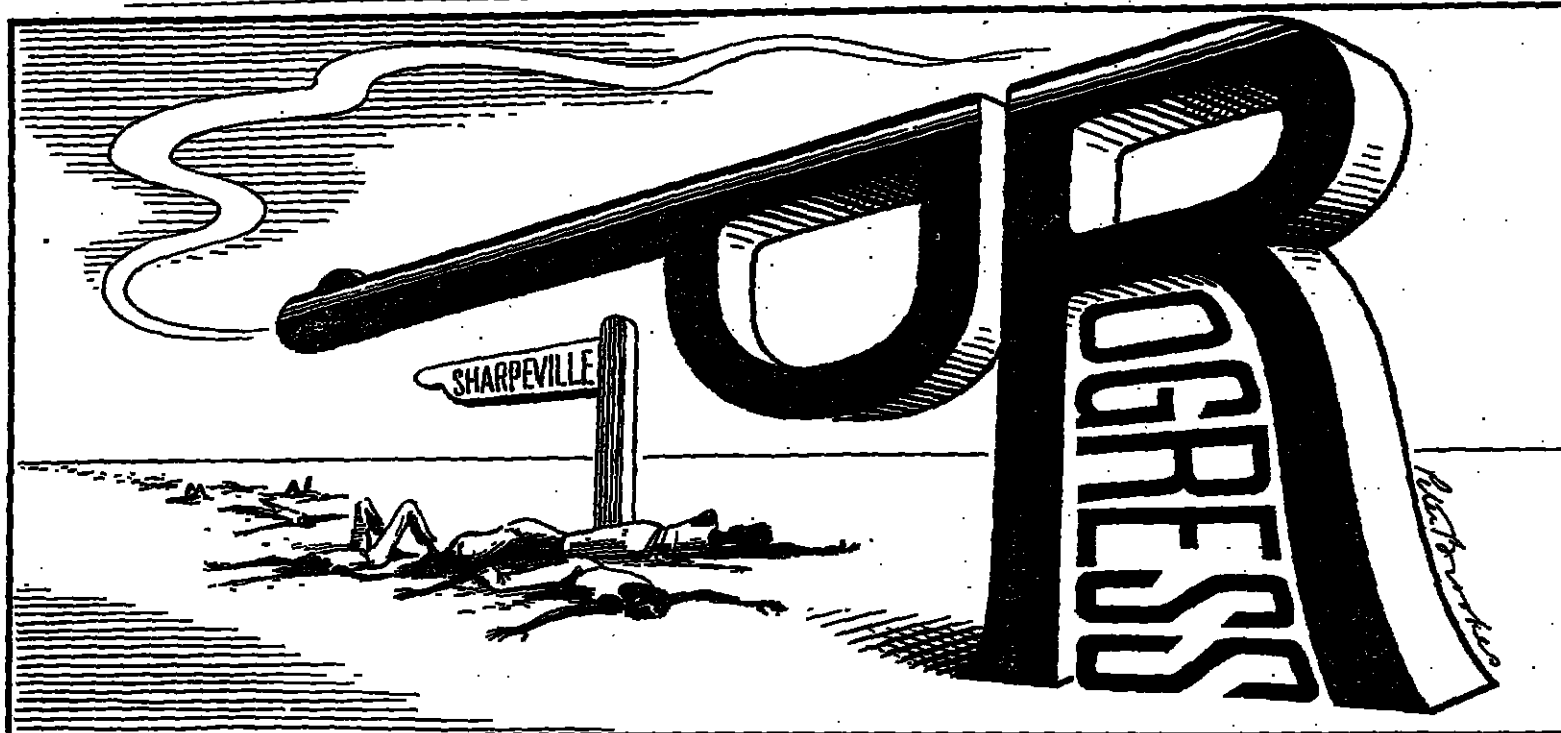
However, amazingly, the British Government is blocking the new route. The Department of Transport has ruled that, if SIA wants to fly into Manchester, it must first reduce its highly-successful daily service to Heathrow. The department knows well, of course, that for SIA to have anything less than a daily service to Heathrow would be nonsense commercially, so its response amounts to a clear "No" to Manchester.

As the Government was bluntly warned in the Commons debate on Stansted on January 30, Manchester is no longer prepared to be treated as a poor relation of London's airports. Our claims to new international services must be considered on their merits and not as a bargaining point to reduce services to London. There is very substantial traffic potential between Manchester and Singapore and we are determined to see it fully realized.

Margaret Thatcher goes to Singapore as the Prime Minister of its biggest trading partner in Europe; she is also premier of a country that enjoys a favourable trade balance with Singapore. Mrs Thatcher would be well advised to honour the Air Services Agreement by ending her Government's veto on SIA before she leaves for Singapore. I can assure her that neither ministers nor the British community there will mislead her words if she does not.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, which includes Manchester International Airport. He is an Opposition front-bench spokesman.

Michael Hornsby on the growing black anger behind the violence



Johannesburg
The fresh surge of violence touched off in South Africa's black ghettos by last week's slaughter at Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape amounts in fact to no more than a heightening of a state of unrest that is now endemic.

The Eastern Cape, a once sleepy rural hinterland with an industrial coastal fringe that became a cradle of black militancy, has been in intermittent turmoil for more than a year. The police there had earned a more than usually savage reputation even before they fired last week on a crowd on its way to a funeral at Uitenhage, killing 19 blacks and wounding many others. In the past week alone, some 40 people in all have been killed in violence in black townships of the region.

Black anger is at a high pitch everywhere. Ever since last September, when serious disturbances began in Sharpeville, there have been almost daily reports of outbreaks of stone-throwing, arson, school boycotts and deaths (now numbering more than 230). So routine have such reports become that it takes an outrage like the Uitenhage shootings to push the unrest back into the headlines of even the South African press.

The well-attested brutality of the police is matched by a popular backlash of increasing savagery against the most easily accessible symbols of the state's oppression — those blacks holding positions in the apparatus of government and law-enforcement. Prime targets are black policemen, who account for half the force, and black town councillors.

Scores of their homes have been set on fire or attacked with petrol bombs. Some of the occupants have been burnt alive with their families, others hacked down by enraged mobs as they tried to flee from the flames. Hand grenades are lobbed into the offices of township mayors. The violence of the civil war within

the black community itself is a new and ugly dimension to the unrest.

The township councils, seen by Pretoria as generously offering a form of local self-government, are scorned by most blacks as no more than agents for transmitting decrees from on high on such matters as rents and water and electricity charges, and as insultingly inadequate substitutes for real political rights.

Pretoria's apologists contend that unrest is an unavoidable by-product of change, especially when a traditionally oppressive government is trying to mend its ways. The South African president, Mr P. W. Botha, has repeatedly spoken of the risk of instability during a period of reform, and argues that the government has to be all the firmer at such times in putting down attempts at subversion.

The trouble is that the government's heavy-handed approach, buttressed by its apparently unshakable belief that the unrest is the work of a small minority of communist agitators and malcontents, merely stimulates more disorder. What Mr Botha refuses to acknowledge is that the vast mass of blacks see his reforms as merely reformulating apartheid rather than abolishing it. That perception is unlikely to be changed, or the unrest stemmed, until there is a clear declaration of intent to repeal all legislation enforcing racial segregation, and a

willingness to share power with blacks in a central political structure that accommodates all race groups.

That is the minimum requirement of even moderate blacks such as Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, the Zulu leader, who is regarded by many radicals as having sold out because of his opposition to foreign economic disinvestment and his role as chief minister of the KwaZulu "bantustan".

When he opened the new parliament of whites, Indians and mixed-race Coloureds in January, Mr Botha for the first time indicated a willingness, albeit typically hedged by ambiguity and qualification, to address the central grievances of the still disenfranchised black African majority. The scepticism with which his remarks were almost universally greeted in the black community seems to have been all too well founded, in the light of later events.

Mr Botha's promise of new political structures for blacks, above the local government level, remains undefined, but it has been made pretty clear that it does not imply a fourth chamber for blacks in the parliament.

Similarly, Mr Botha's potentially promising offer of a new "negotiating forum" for all races was torpedoed almost immediately by the government's own actions. At first glance, it looked like a gesture towards the "national convention" which the United Democratic Front,

Chief Buthelezi, black churchmen such as Bishop Desmond Tutu and white liberals in the Progressive Federal Party could all accept as a starting-point for real reform, provided the African National Congress was included.

The government, it was said, was willing to talk to all who supported peaceful change. Mr Botha offered to release Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC's imprisoned leader, if he renounced guerrilla warfare. In the same breath, however, he arrested most of the leadership of the United Democratic Front.

Conflicting statements over the future of influx control (the web of laws and regulations that restrict the movement of blacks outside the urban "homelands") and over forced population removals have shown the same pattern of inconsistency. Part of this is deliberate obfuscation, since it suits Mr Botha's purpose

There is, however, also genuine confusion about where the country is headed. Mr Botha is locked into a posture of strategic indecision: unwilling to embrace thoroughgoing reform for fear of losing what remains of his traditional Afrikaner constituency, but equally unable to fall back on unmitigated repression, because he needs the support of groups he could previously afford to ignore — Coloureds, Indians, white liberals, businessmen worried by trade-union militancy, foreign opinion.

The gloomy economic outlook, and flustering confidence here that South Africa's importance as a source of strategic minerals is still a copper-bottomed insurance against economic sanctions, are new factors. South Africa was reeling from previous political crises — after Sharpeville in 1960 and again after the Soweto riots of 1976-77 — by periods of economic boom. No such wadi-fall is in sight now.

A number of others have said they would consider joining if only the "haves" would fulfil their obligations under Article 6 by making some progress on arms control. This may be a convenient excuse for those who are reluctant to forgo their right to go nuclear for political reasons. But there is also much genuine resentment. A row broke out during the first review conference in 1975 and in 1980 they failed even to agree on a communiqué.

Many of the signatories complain that the "carrot" which helped persuade them to join has proved less than juicy, and that some non-signatories have found it easier to acquire nuclear help from the "haves" than those who have ratified the treaty. The colour of one's money has been a more powerful means of persuasion than any treaty obligations.

This year, diplomats are particularly anxious for a successful review conference because they are already growing uneasy about 1995, when the complete treaty comes up for renewal. Another negative debate and the future of the treaty after 25 years of life could look very uncertain.

There have fortunately been some encouraging signs for the "haves". For one thing, some of the big

powers have shown signs of toughening their attitude towards the treaty's non-signatories. France broke with Pakistan when the latter refused to accept modifications to its civil reactor programme. West Germany, after aiding Brazil with its new enrichment and reprocessing plants, has promised not to do so again. This sounds like shunning the stable door after the horse has bolted; but it is also better late than never.

China, although it has not yet signed the treaty, has joined the IAEA and has agreed to take part in negotiations over a nuclear test ban. And now, the Russians have said for the first time that they will accept some on-site reactor inspections. The nuclear weapon powers do not need to do this under the treaty, but the US, Britain and France offered to do so as a gesture of faith — and the Russians have followed suit.

Ideally, East and West would like to have some progress to show on arms control by September, to impress their critics at Geneva. It remains to be seen whether the resumption of arms talks will be enough to quieten the complainants. But at least the "haves" should now earn a few marks for effort.

Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic correspondent

Anne Sofer

The flaws in Lady Warnock's lesson

The Royal Society of Arts, housed in its beautiful 18th-century building in John Adam St, Westminster, is an organization which attempts to be an embodiment of all the good things about the Industrial Revolution that somehow got away — inventiveness, encouragement of diverse talent, high standards of design, the integration of theory and practice. The atmosphere is enlivened and high-minded; the activities are urgently practical. "Education for Capability" is the society's current slogan, and it seeks out for special commendation educational institutions that actually teach people to do things.

It was thus in many ways an ideal setting for the 1985 Dimbly lecture given by Mary Warnock under the title "Teacher, Teach Thyself". Much of what she said would have brought sage nods from the worthy founders whose portraits grace its walls. For instance, "The facts a child learns at school will be forgotten; the opinions he holds will change. But that he can do something he couldn't do before is the proof that he is really being educated; and this is true whether his new skill is as complicated as building an aeroplane or as simple as tying his own shoelaces."

Press reaction to the lecture has inevitably concentrated on her sharp rebuke to the teachers for striking Less news-worthy but more significant were her proposals for the improvement of teachers' professionalism: the establishment of a general teaching council which would assess teachers, the creation of professional "teacher tutors" within schools to be responsible for the training of teachers, and increased pay differentials. None of these ideas is new but presented together as a package, particularly at the present time and with a view to enhancing teachers' status and prospects, they at least deserve discussion.

But when Baroness Warnock embarks on a discussion of what the nature of teachers' professionalism should be I begin to get uneasy. There is a subliminal appeal to pure snobbery; teachers should not harm their image by "putting themselves on a level with other wage earners... whose jobs are essentially concerned with the production of goods". There is also the encouragement to a certain aloofness; teachers must not "ape the social worker" (who she claims sees all individuals as "products, per se victims, of the economic and social forces that govern human life").

Above all, teachers' professionalism should keep parents at arms' length: "Teachers are accustomed to think in terms of authority over their pupils: it is just as important that they should be able to be authoritative with parents. For this is what expertise and conscious professionalism entails. There are two different types of parents, both to be deplored in their different way. There is the pushy parent, who must be made firmly aware that 'a school is not a club or society to be run by its lesser members' and then, an indifferent parent, with whose 'unhelpful attitudes' teachers must be equipped to deal.

Astonishing stuff, you may think, from the chairman of the Warnock Committee whose recommen-

dations on the education of children with special needs gave such an emphasis to parental participation. But it is clear its author has recanted. "Looking back, I think we exaggerated," she says drily.

All of this puts the Warnock view of education firmly in the strong British tradition of schools as closed institutions, heirs to the destroyed monasteries, that still (apparently) haunt us teachers as some sort of dedicated order, children as novices, their parents firmly outside the walls, awed and grateful at what their children are learning.

I am reminded of the distinction, which Tyrrell Burgess drew, in a book called *Education After School* (1976), between the "autonomous tradition" which he characterized as "aloof, exclusive, conservative and academic," and the "service tradition" which he characterized as "responsive, open, innovative and vocational". A typical "autonomous" institution is a university, and its strengths are quality of scholarship and the preservation of freedom of thought. A typical "service" institution is a college of further education, and its strengths are accessibility and flexibility.

The philosophy of the Royal Society of Arts, with which I patronize this column, is closer to the latter tradition — and I am sure some wrinkled brows were appearing on the distinguished portraits by the end of the Dimbly lecture.

In the post-school sector the types of institution polarize. Easy Schools, on the other hand, try to combine both traditions; and it is the stress and strain of this effort that is in part responsible for the current breakdown in morale. There are the academic demands on the one hand — improving exam results, updating syllabuses, integrating curricula — and the demands of responding to "the community" on the other.

What may prove seductive about Baroness Warnock's approach is that she is sweetening her chastisement of the teachers with a suggestion that they can revert to their traditional autonomous role.

But it is this very role that has failed to elicit high standards of achievement from the majority of children for far too long. There are no more depressing statistics than those from the Department of Education and Science which illustrate annually how closely examination success and social class are linked. Far too large a proportion of the population feels that the education system is not set up for their benefit and their children are not likely to do particularly well in it.

What small successes there have been in reversing these expectations have been where parents were heavily involved (for instance, the research project in Haringey, where parents engaged in regular reading work with their children). It is a typical irony, perhaps, that notions start to be written off as the trendy clichés of yesterday just as the first pieces of hard evidence begin to appear to vindicate them. An Oxford philosopher should be proof against such swings of the pendulum, and I hope Baroness Warnock will think again.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

moreover... Miles Kington

Now you see it, now you don't

Are you excited by James Burke's mind? I sure am. I can't wait till tomorrow to see the next episode. In fact, here it is now.

Credits. Incredibly knowledgeable music. A satellite view of a strange domed object. It is James Burke's cranium. Title: "The Way We See".

Burke: Everything we do is governed by the way we see. You're looking at me now. But when you come to think about it, you're not seeing me at all. You're looking at a series of dots on a TV screen. Amazing, isn't it?

Cut to Burke in a Greek cafe. Greek music plays.

Burke: Those dots are made possible because 3,000 years ago a Greek fisherman made an amazing discovery, which I'll tell you about some other time.

Cut to Burke on top of a London bus. An old Cockney song plays.

Burke: Thanks to those dots, I can come into your home and tell you all these things. In the old days, before books and TV, I would have had to come round and tell you all individually, one by one. That would have taken about four years. Which is the time, coincidentally, it took to make this series.

Cut to dramatic re-enactment of Galileo looking through a telescope. We hear Italian music.

Burke: And here's another thing. Have you noticed that whenever we show you a different country, the computer automatically plays the relevant music? Maddening, isn't it? But that's progress.

Cut to Burke in the middle of the Sahara desert.

Burke: No music here in the Sahara. Makes a nice change, eh? What I'm trying to say, really, is that we are what we see, and that in turn depends on the way we see it. For instance, have you noticed that I'm wearing heavy horn-rimmed spectacles? Takes off glasses. And without them, I haven't the faintest idea what the outcome is saying? OK, let's break for lunch.

Close-up of Burke's ears.

Burke: These are my ears. What have they got to do with seeing, you may ask? Well, without them, the couldn't wear my specs. The way I see actually depends on my ears. Fantastic, isn't it? And yet it all depends on a Spanish conquistador who, in 1541, got off his horse and

broke his ankle. I wonder if you can guess where we're going next?

Cut to Burke in Madrid. Burst of flamenco music.

Burke: That's right. South America. It was here, in 1742, that a monk made a discovery that led to off-course betting on horses as we know it today. But that's another story. What I'm trying to say, really, is that although I'm sitting here now, you're not seeing me now. You're seeing me on Tuesday evenings, repeated on Saturday. Weird, eh? But in ancient Greece everyone saw everything as it actually happened, if you can imagine anything so old hat.

Cut to a hillside in Greece. Enter Michael Wood, running with a rucksack.

Wood: Did Homer actually see the events he writes about? It's jolly unlikely. And yet if he had run as fast as me...

Enter Burke, shouldering Wood aside.

Burke: Sorry about that. We just wanted to show you that we are tremendously co-conscious at the BBC. You may think, oh, here's Burke swanning around the world, but in actual fact me an Wood are swanning around together, to save expenses.

Cut to Burke, sitting in the black Mastermind chair.

Magnusson: What is your chosen subject?

Burke: Everything that has ever happened.

Magnusson: Correct. Your first question is: In the Middle Ages, a hippy Provencal troubadour wrote a song that was to lead directly to the invention of contact lenses. What was the name of the song and why was it banned in Finland?

Burke: We shall be dealing with this in episode 7.

Magnusson: Correct.

Cut to Burke walking up to the entrance of TV Centre, Wood Lane.

Burke: So you see, as it were, we are what we see. Our very language reinforces this. Our very mean? I don't see what you're driving at. The way I see it, these are just some of the phrases...

Final credits. "The BBC would like to thank all the great thinkers of the past, especially those out of copyright. Thanks, guys. A book is now available."

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SMALL IS HELPFUL

When the House of Lords on Wednesday debates Third World starvation it will be able to avoid concentrating entirely on the symptoms rather than the causes of the crisis which now afflicts Africa? The symptoms are only too evident on our television screens. The treatment of those symptoms consists of assembling as much immediate food relief as can be effectively distributed to those in need. The best system of distribution seems to be for governments to provide financial and material assistance to the network of voluntary agencies which are already in the famine relief business. In that way the taxpayer as donor acquires some additional reassurance along with the charitable donor that the food aid is reaching its correct target. If governments work through governments, certainly in the case of Ethiopia, there is a strong possibility that most of the aid is sidetracked to less-deserving targets, such as, for instance, the soldiers of the Dergue's army who clearly have much fuller stomachs than the fellow citizens they are fighting.

But beyond discussing the logistics of such an approach and arguing about the statistics of famine and the necessary relief—both of which are inherently unreliable—what more is there to say unless we tackle the causes and try to ensure that such a crisis does not recur? No humanitarian operation—let alone one of this scale—should be continued indefinitely without such questions being asked. Even if the cause of African starvation was entirely meteorological, which it is not, there would be no point in persisting with famine relief against the distant hope that at some future date the climate and soil structure of sub-Saharan Africa would improve.

But when even the World Bank admits that the crisis of Africa has been caused by human failure surely that is the time to rub in the past lessons and to see that the current famine relief operation is conceived and carried out in such a way that those human failures do not just recur. The history of the last 20 years of official aid policy shows that such admissions are not normally made. As a result the same mistakes have recurred until the crisis of human failure has now become too large to ignore.

In its report on "a joint

programme of action" for developing sub-Saharan Africa the World Bank called for large amounts of new funds. It argued that local governments were now ready to mend their ways and would not profligately spend those funds as hitherto. In a further commentary on the report, provided by the World Bank for *The Times*, several qualifications emerge. The first, and most relevant to the question of famine and food production, is the whole statistical approach to agriculture which seems to resemble almost an abstract science and not surprisingly produces figures which are largely incomprehensible.

Since the basis of most African agriculture is subsistence farming it should not be surprising that there is little statistical evidence of food production. The World Bank regrets this and merely suggests that the share of agriculture in GDP "may be underestimated" because of the difficulty in assigning subsistence farming its proper value. Of course it is difficult since the food is either consumed directly by the producers or sold outside the regulated economy, but that should be no excuse for the exaggerated projections which are thus made on the basis of "benchmark" data which includes general climatic information and estimated levels of nutrition. It is on this slender basis that the world is treated to famine projections which suggest that millions are at risk and it seems an inadequate basis on which to organize any concerted or effective relief operation.

There is now in the developing world a much greater acceptance of the fact that subsistence agriculture and small scale production of edible cash crops should be the main area of development. Instead of grandiose industrial schemes worked out on a government-to-government basis, what Africa needs now are individuals versed in agricultural extension services, intermediate technology and small scale water development. The World Bank's natural desire is to spearhead this reform itself, on the basis that both the multilateral donor agencies and receiver governments have now recanted their profligate past. Have they?

The World Bank's contribution to sub-Saharan development since 1975 included 7.5 billion dollars invested in "agri-

culture" of which only 16 per cent was devoted to rain-fed cereal crops. Of 22 World Bank agricultural and rural development projects approved for sub-Saharan Africa in 1981, only two were specifically aimed at raising domestic food output. Food production had thus been ignored while the pressure to develop export earnings from cash crops had pushed subsistence farmers onto soils which were only suitable for light grazing. In Ethiopia, for instance, while the civil war rages, only 15 per cent of cultivable land is actually being cultivated.

Yet outside government projects and outside the big aid culture, even Ethiopia can show the advantages of the approach of intermediate technology. For instance that country's 20,000 peasant associations, consisting of seven million people, have in the last seven years constructed huge acres of farmland terracing, planted with 500 million seedlings. What that project needed was not vast capital but local advice on irrigation and the establishment of local technology to make the necessary tools and equipment.

If Africa is to feed itself, therefore, it needs to break away from the structure of past development finance, so that funds, expertise and technology reach it on a human scale through non-government organizations working with the private sector either completely outside the framework of government or in collaboration with small local agencies. Under the recently signed Lome III convention the African signatories committed themselves to ensure a predictable and safe investment climate and to promote private investment. Prospective investors can hardly avoid noticing that such a change of attitude directly contradicts the entire development culture of the last 20 years, including that of the World Bank. Africa's more enlightened leaders, seeking food sufficiency for their citizens, will have to repudiate the Bourbon-like utterances last week of President Nyerere. Africa's most helped and least successful leader. Until they do, and until they accept that previous policies have contributed to Africa's current famine, the symptoms of the starvation crisis will stay with us indefinitely. This week the House of Lords can help to set the record straight.

depress employment levels and living standards even further, postponed necessary economic reforms or contented themselves with half measures.

Dr Soares, since he returned to power two years ago, has been at least a partial, and honourable, exception. He has imposed austerity policies which have at least begun to turn round Portugal's disastrous public finances and balance of payments. But the shock has been all the greater for being delayed, and the result, in Western Europe's poorest country, has been hardship for many Portuguese families such as few elsewhere in Europe have had to suffer since the immediate aftermath of World War II. Portuguese industry is not yet in shape to contemplate the opening of the Portuguese market to North European competition with any confidence—but this in any case will be delayed and softened by the transitional period. The other side of the coin is that low labour costs should make certain Portuguese industries—textiles notably—highly competitive in Northern European markets, and Portuguese agriculture stands to benefit from the CAP. Transfers of wealth within the Community do tend to be from richer countries to poorer, and Portugal is certainly well-placed to benefit from that.

perceived readiness of a US President to press the button in order to defend Europe in circumstances in which Europe might already have been devastated or overrun, when to do so might ensure the devastation of the US?

5. What will be the impact upon American isolationism, upon Alliance unity and upon the credibility of our defence posture of the swelling chorus of European criticism and derision to which Sir Geoffrey has just added?

Finally, the Foreign Secretary should ask himself whether it is not rather flaccid ("wet") is perhaps a more familiar term in Tory circles) to imply that the only probable use for SDI is as bargaining chip when to make the assertion is to destroy any usefulness it may have in this respect.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD FROST,
Executive Director,
Institute for European Defence & Strategic Studies,
13-14 Golden Square, W1.
March 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protecting the weak in London housing

From the Chairman of the Greater London Council Housing Committee
Sir, There is much in your editorial (March 13) on the urgent need for a higher level of investment in housing from all sources, with which the Greater London Council would hardly quarrel. But I must take issue, most strongly, with the simplistic notion that scrapping the rent Acts would make a useful contribution to this end.

The GLC's recent survey of the privately rented sector in London suggests, in fact, that over half of all new lettings are already outside the rent Acts. Yet there has been no reversal in the sector's decline. There is as little interest in improving conditions, by far the worst in this sector.

On the other hand, there is mounting evidence of pressure on tenants from their landlords of precisely the kind that prompted this legislation in the first place. Some 17,000 London tenants, disproportionately drawn from ethnic minority groups and single women living alone, report experiences which in some cases would undoubtedly warrant a criminal charge.

It is not the rent Acts in themselves, but the overall balance of fiscal advantage across the housing sectors which drives landlords from the market. The main achievement of the last attempt to "free" this sector in 1957 was the transfer of large parts of it into owner-occupation. The paradoxical outcome of any move which made it easier now for landlords to sell with vacant possession is likely to be a further sudden drop in the number of lettings available.

Alternative medicine

From Dr Christopher J. Bennett

Sir, Your editorial "Holistic healing" (March 13) and page 1 news give patients a very misguided idea of how doctors really function. To polarise the healing profession into the "conventional" or "alternative" is a gross distortion of reality.

It was nearly 30 years ago when that famous thinker and family doctor Balint coined the phrase "the drug doctor". Most general practitioners have never lost sight of this and many more now put this to the forefront of their holistic approach. They do not "jargonise" what they do in terms amenable to editorial writers makes their work no less valid.

The only distinction that should be drawn between practitioners is between those who are registered and those who are not. Patients have a choice, not between a conventional or alternative practitioner but between consulting with a practitioner whose every action is amenable to either professional or legal redress. Or they can choose a lay person as their therapist, who may be an excellent healer or an out-

VSO mercy flight

From Dr Anthony Hall

Sir, K. S. Lambert (March 14) detailed the amount of voluntary effort needed in VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) local groups to raise £50,000, the amount the RAF charged for bringing home Jill Sanderson, the VSO worker widely reported in the press as recovering from Lassa fever. Mr Timothy Raison, the Minister for Overseas Development (March 18) reported that his ministry and VSO will be splitting the costly and VSO will be splitting the privilege of being consulted at several stages in the arrangements and I reminded the organisers that under DHSS regulations, patients with highly contagious diseases should be flown to the UK in an RAF plane, if the RAF

The last laugh

From Mr Graeme Fife

Sir, Joe Grimaldi was not penniless when he died (report, March 14), though many of his friends, stars of Regency pantomime, including Bob Bradbury, Jack Bologna and James Barnes, died destitute. In fact he had £450 invested at his death; small enough recompense, even so, for the calamities (that he was a drunkard), the detractions ("a mere face-maker, a sausage-guzzler") and the grief occasioned by his son's failure, bankruptcy and early demise. "Come dear friend and cheer me up", he wrote in one of his last letters.

So, the restoration of his grave, long overdue, is very welcome. As he himself would have said: "Nice!" Yours faithfully,
GRAEME FIFE,
Corner House, Brixton Road,
Saxthorpe, Norwich,
Norfolk.

Solicitors' 'monopoly'

From Mr Ken Weetch, MP for Ipswich (Labour)

Sir, Your article in the Family Money section of March 16 "Plan to end solicitors' monopoly will not cut conveyancing costs" is both timely and accurate in its analysis.

After over 10 years of campaigning for conveyancing reform, both inside and outside the House of Commons, I view the current Administration of Justice Bill with complete dismay.

The ostensible aim of the Bill is to create a new breed of licensed conveyancers who will increase the supply of conveyancing services through widening the class of persons entitled to transfer residential property. Thus, it is claimed, the solicitors' "monopoly" will be broken, and prices will come down.

In practice none of these things will happen. The new Council for Licensed Conveyancers, taking as its main ethos the first Farrand report, is likely to fix conveyancing qualifications and experience as near to those of a solicitor as possible. This will be at a level unlikely to

draw many additional entrants to specialise in offering the service. The council will be an expensive, professional quango with a ton of procedural apparatus; it will have little to do except guard the boundaries of entry as vigilantly as possible. As time goes on, if similar bodies provide any parallel, it will feather the nest by jacking up entry qualifications even further.

The new body will, in fact, be a paler but otherwise faithful copy of the Law Society, and will perform similar restrictive-practice functions. Its legislative form, in the Bill, has all the hallmarks of having been shaped by the dead hand of the restrictive practitioners in Chancery Lane, fighting a successful rearguard action against change. The door of the old monopoly has opened only a little; and even then on a heavy chain.

Notice, too, that the new council is to stand separately. There is to be no common body for all, including solicitors, who offer conveyancing services. As a consequence, the new council is likely to have a second-class status right from the start.

But there is worse. The functional monopoly of conveyancing is to be immeasurably tightened. At present

British Library's union troubles

From the Chairman of the British Library

Sir, Professor L. Martines (March 21) has drawn attention to the regrettable, serious inconvenience he and others are suffering because of the present evening and Saturday closure of the British Library reading rooms at Great Russell Street and raised certain other issues.

The closure is the consequence of trade union action in response to the library board's decision to close the reading rooms on three additional public holidays each year and to reduce somewhat the service available on Saturdays and after 5 pm on other days.

The problem the board faces is simple; the solution difficult. Just under 80 per cent of library income is Government grant-in-aid, which increases at a rate less than that of general inflation and much less than that of each item purchased for the collections. The very hardness of foreign currency has alone decreased the purchasing power of the library by about \$1 million in one year.

The remaining, roughly 20 per cent, of income derives from charges, revised regularly to keep pace with costs, for goods and services provided. To meet this situation the board tries to increase income from both sources, but the gap between income and expenditure cannot be closed without some economies, of which the latest is the reduced reading room service.

The board took this decision with very great regret, not least because it considered, as I am sure Professor Martines would agree, that in "the interest of culture and society" it is more important for readers to be able to use the reading rooms, albeit with reduced services, than not to be able to use them at all at these times, which is the difficulty the readers now experience.

Yours faithfully,
FRED DAINTON,
Chairman of the Board,
The British Library,
2 Sheraton Street, W1.
March 22.

Budget origins

From Mr Hugh Peskett

Sir, Both the author of your article, "Origins of the Budget" (March 14) and your correspondent Mr Cobb (March 20) have overlooked the senior position of Winchester. The Treasury was originally in the royal palace in central Winchester, where William I went from his coronation in September, 1087, to view the treasury and the riches which his father, the Conqueror, had accumulated there.

It was moved to the castle by August 3, 1100, when that super-pragmatist Henry I assured his succession by hastening *ad arcem Guentlonas ubi regalis thesaurus continetur*. King Stephen took possession of the Treasury in Winchester Castle in December, 1135, and the Empress Matilda did so in 1141. The Treasury did not move to London until the 1180s.

There is some earlier evidence; the author of the *Gesta Stephani* wrote in the 1150s of the antiquity of the Winchester Treasury, and a reference in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* points to the Treasury being there in November, 1035.

The view in Winchester that London is parvenu and provincial is not unfounded.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH PESKETT
(Research Director,
Burke's Peerage Ltd),
1 Avenue Road,
Winchester,
Hampshire.

Numerical disadvantage

From Mr Rodney Shiers

Sir, I have recently received a book purchased by mail order from an international company.

They have asked me to quote my account number in any correspondence and write it on the face of my cheque when making payment. I considered this to be a reasonable enough request until I noticed my account number which is apparently 101WISIER0000095 046019 03000000 0009354 00 092880 0011036.

I trust this is not their computer estimate of my reading age!

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY SHIERS,
Rose Cottage,
East Bank,
Winstar,
Nr Mallock,
Derbyshire,
March 14.

No new competitive conditions have been created, the new, and more tightly drawn powers will enable the legal profession to carry on their price exploitation of the owner-occupier in the same way that it has for generations.

I for one will speak and vote against the Bill. In doing so I shall reflect, sadly and with some irony, that I have been part of the reform movement that aided the Bill's creation.

Yours faithfully,
KEN WEETCH,
House of Commons.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 25, 1915

Neuve Chapelle, a village in Pas de Calais west of Lille, was attacked by British and Indian troops on March 10, 1915. The first phase was successful and the village was quickly occupied. Although German counter attacks were repulsed, further advance was impossible and the action ceased on the 13th. Allied casualties were nearly 13,000.

THE LOSSES AT NEUVE CHAPPELLE.

A BRAVE ENEMY.
(FROM AN EYE-WITNESS AT HEADQUARTERS.)

MARCH 23.
In their counter-attacks from the Bois du Buis during the fight round Neuve Chapelle the German losses were tremendous. Line after line were broken and the enemy was driven back. In their picturesquely phrased some of our troops said that shooting the enemy was like cutting grain. Our men in action in this quarter were so excited that they clamoured up on to the parapets in order to get better and obtain greater freedom to use their rifles.

In some of the captured trenches then held by us there was no room on the parapets, or raised portions from which men fire, for all the men in the trench to shoot at the same time, and as the action proceeded those below in rear could not restrain their impetuosity. They shouted "Get down and give us a chance" some even pulling down those in front in order to take their places. On battalion reserves its fire until the Germans were only 50 yards away and then opened both with rifle fire and with machine-guns.

BRAVE GERMAN OFFICERS
The German officers displayed the most reckless courage. On more than one occasion they invited certain death by riding forward on horseback to direct the attack to within a few hundred yards of our line. None of those who so exposed themselves escaped. One *Major* in charge of a machine-gun kept his gun in action throughout our bombardment, and then, when our men charged down upon him, awaited death, calmly standing on the parapet of the trench and emptying his revolver at them...

ELATED INDIAN TROOPS
The Indians are especially elated by the result of our heavy death toll. They are sure that they are going to have another fight. Many stories are told of their prowess. One Gurkha made his way into a house and single-handedly captured five Germans, whom he marched off at the point of his kukri. The Gurkhas are returning with articles of German equipment which they designated by the French word *Souvenirs*.

A brigade order has been captured which shows the measures undertaken by the Germans both to maintain discipline and to encourage the soldiers. Mention is made of a "War Newspaper," which is published in Lille and is supplied to the troops in the trenches.

We must do everything possible to prevent the use of these death tolls. It is recommended that troops in rest billets should be given stirring history lessons, and, in particular, accounts of the present campaign. All officers must take an interest in cheering up their men and in drawing together the various classes. Encouragement of every sort prepares the way to victory.

Dissatisfaction is expressed at the lack of cleanliness and smartness, the laziness in saluting, and the prevalence of unbrushed hair and dirty hands.

THE PRICE OF VICTORY
Although stress has been laid on the fact that our heavy death toll must not be overlooked, we have had to pay the price. In this connection, however, it is well to bear in mind certain facts. The progress made by us during the action at Neuve Chapelle was gained in the course of an attack. It was a tactical and entirely different kind of operation from those undertaken in other quarters, consisting of a gradual advance lasting many weeks...

Teaching of religion

From Mr Roger B. Howarth

Sir, Recent statements in the media about religious education in our county schools have given the impression to people in this country that RE is something about one faith only—Christianity.

The Swann report now confirms what those people involved in RE in schools have been saying and working towards for at least a decade, i.e., religious education is and should be teaching about a variety of religious beliefs and practices.

My own research on agreed syllabuses of religious education shows that in this last decade, 1975-1985, 52 of the 106 local education authorities in England and Wales have either created their own or adopted a new syllabus for use in their primary and secondary schools. This shows that almost 50 per cent of local education authorities have been concerned enough about religious education to want to alter their older approaches to new ones.

All these new syllabuses, to a lesser or greater extent and without exception, expect schools to include teaching about the major faiths found in Britain today in their curriculum. This fact alone is so often overlooked. May I bring it to the attention of those who so often speak out about religious education in our county schools.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER B. HOWARTH,
Senior Lecturer in Religious Education,
Regional RE Centre (Midlands),
Westhill College,
Selly Oak, Birmingham.

Conditioned reflex

From Mrs Marie Forsyth

Sir, Dr Herbert (March 16) should not worry about his habit of being polite to answering machines. It only means that he is naturally courteous. I wish I could stop myself thanking ticket machines on Tube stations.

Yours sincerely,
MARIE FORSYTH,
28 Stockerton Road,
Uppingham,
Leicestershire.

Chunnel contenders

From Sir Ralph Freeman

Sir, Your Industrial Correspondent says (March 22) "Contenders for the link have been narrowed down to two" and lists a rail-only tunnel and a bridge-tunnel "brunnel" scheme, the latter costing £4.5 billion. I am not aware of any forthcoming down announcement by either of the governments. There is a motorway important contender—a motorway bridge, costing little more than half bridge. Both the Anglo-French study group and the recent bankers' study group acknowledged that such a report provides the highest rate of return on investment.

For the user, whether freight carrier or holidaymaker, the bridge carries a straight 30-minute crossing without transfer on to rail or the double spiral convoluting drive between the tunnel and bridge that the brunnel would involve.

Yours truly,
RALPH FREEMAN, Chairman,
Linkintoreport Ltd,
25 Victoria Street (South Block),
SW1.

Weapons in space

From Mr Gerald Frost

Sir, In posing a series of critical questions in relation to SDI (strategic defence initiative) Sir Geoffrey Howe demonstrated a strangely selective curiosity. Here are some further questions which may not trouble him, but increasingly bother many others:

1. What will be the strategic and political consequences if the Soviet Union continues to build upon its existing ballistic missile defence systems and other defensive systems while these development go unmatched in the West?

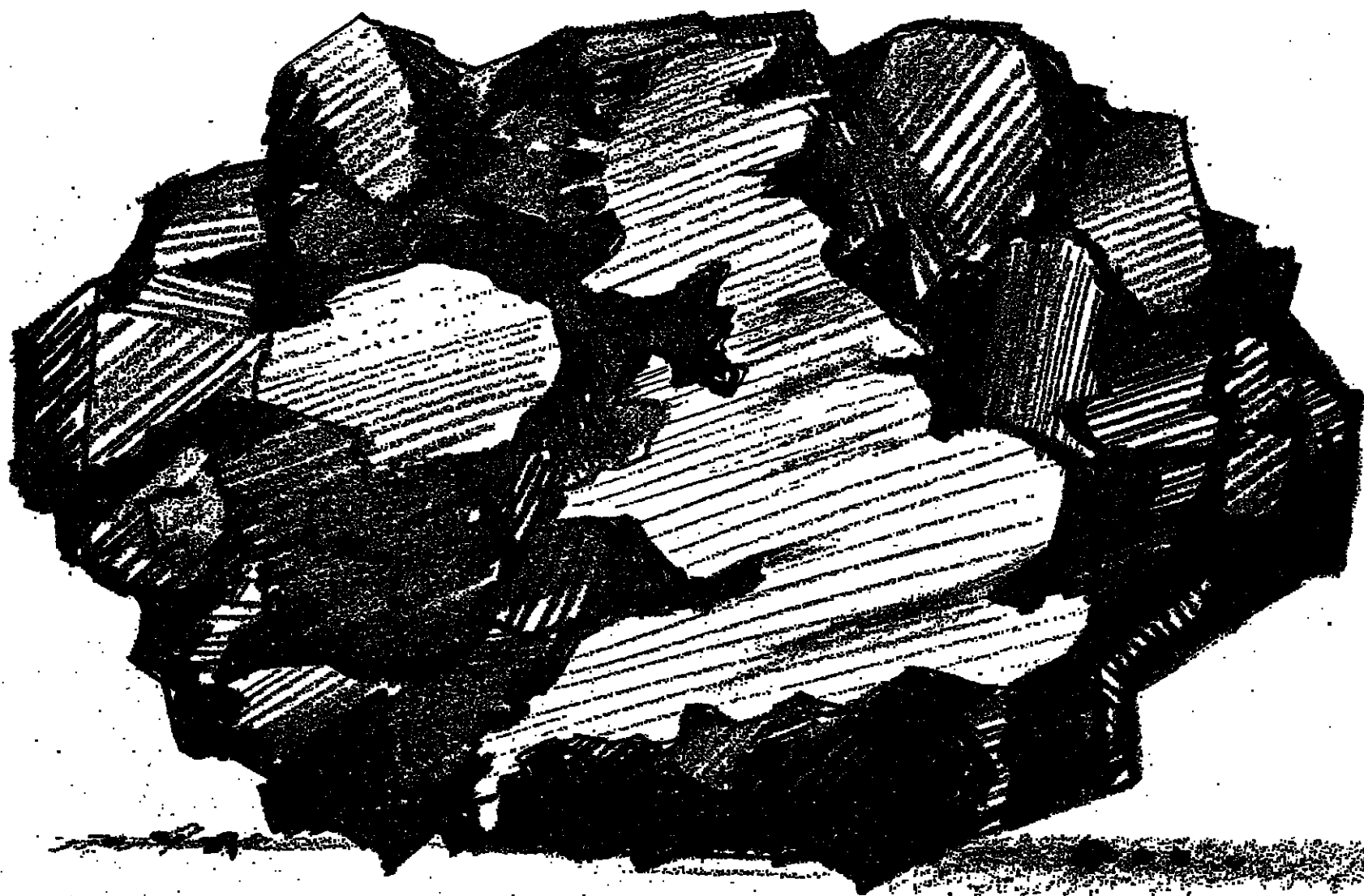
2. What reason has he to suppose that the arms-limitation process can be enlisted to prevent the further growth of Soviet offensive weapons when it has failed to limit effectively the growth of Soviet offensive systems, and when the USSR is already in violation of the existing ABM treaty?

3. How should the West respond to such violations?

4. How credible is the present strategy which depends upon the

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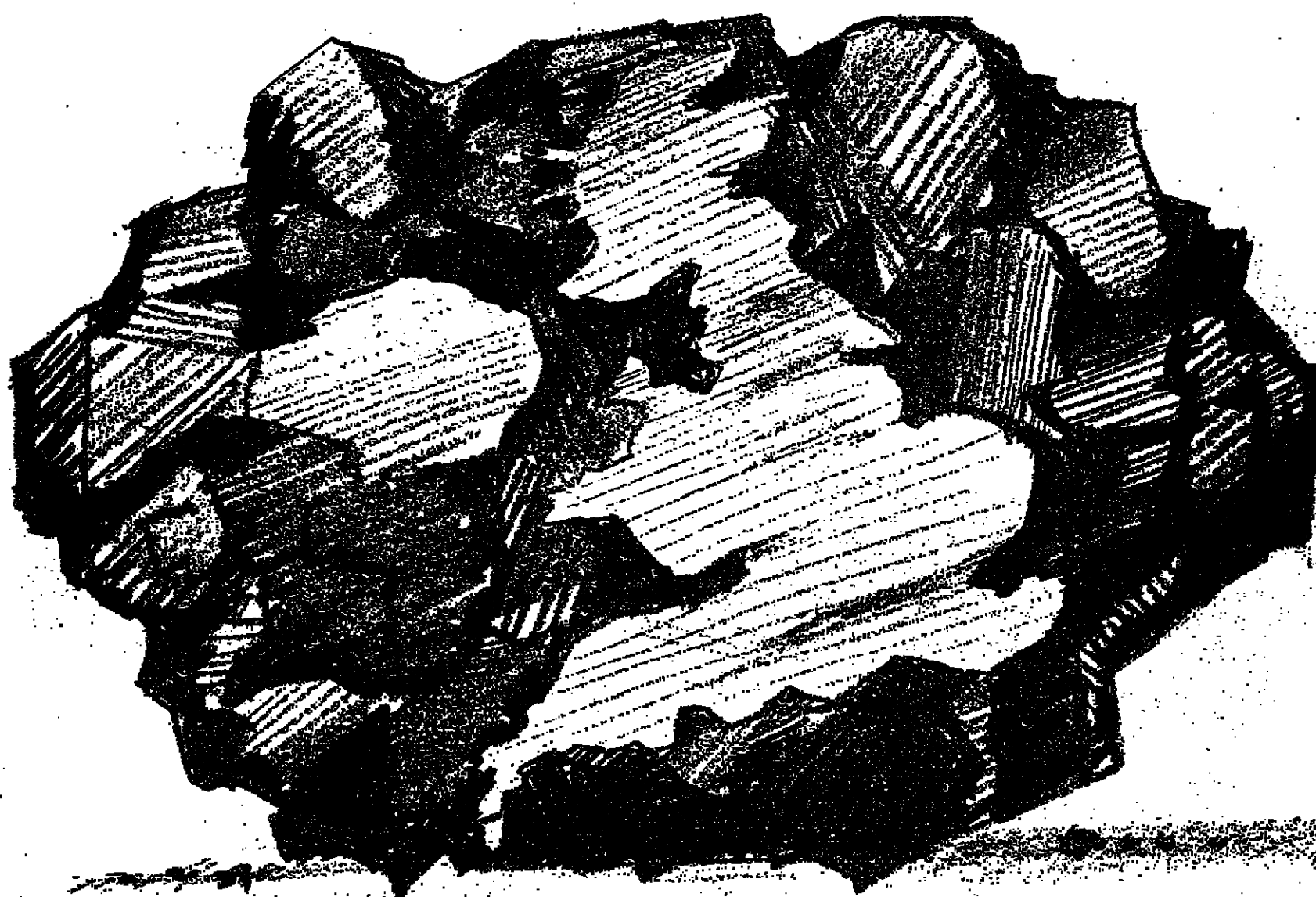
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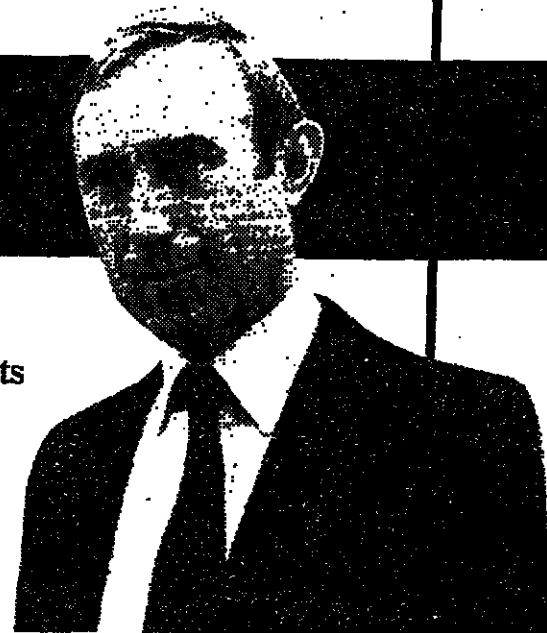
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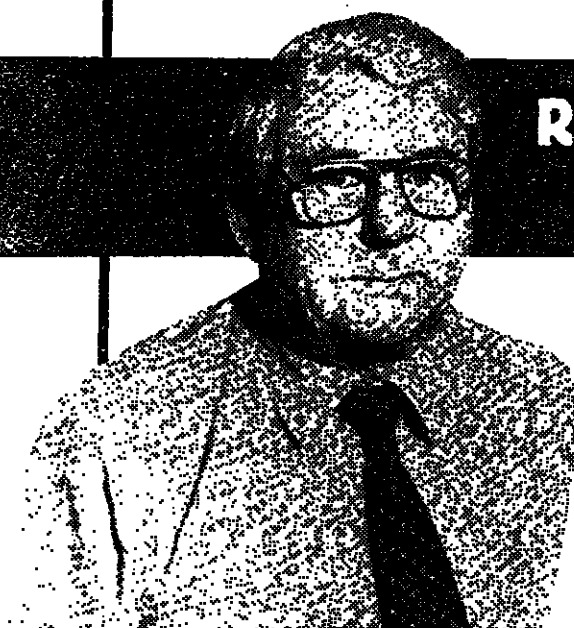


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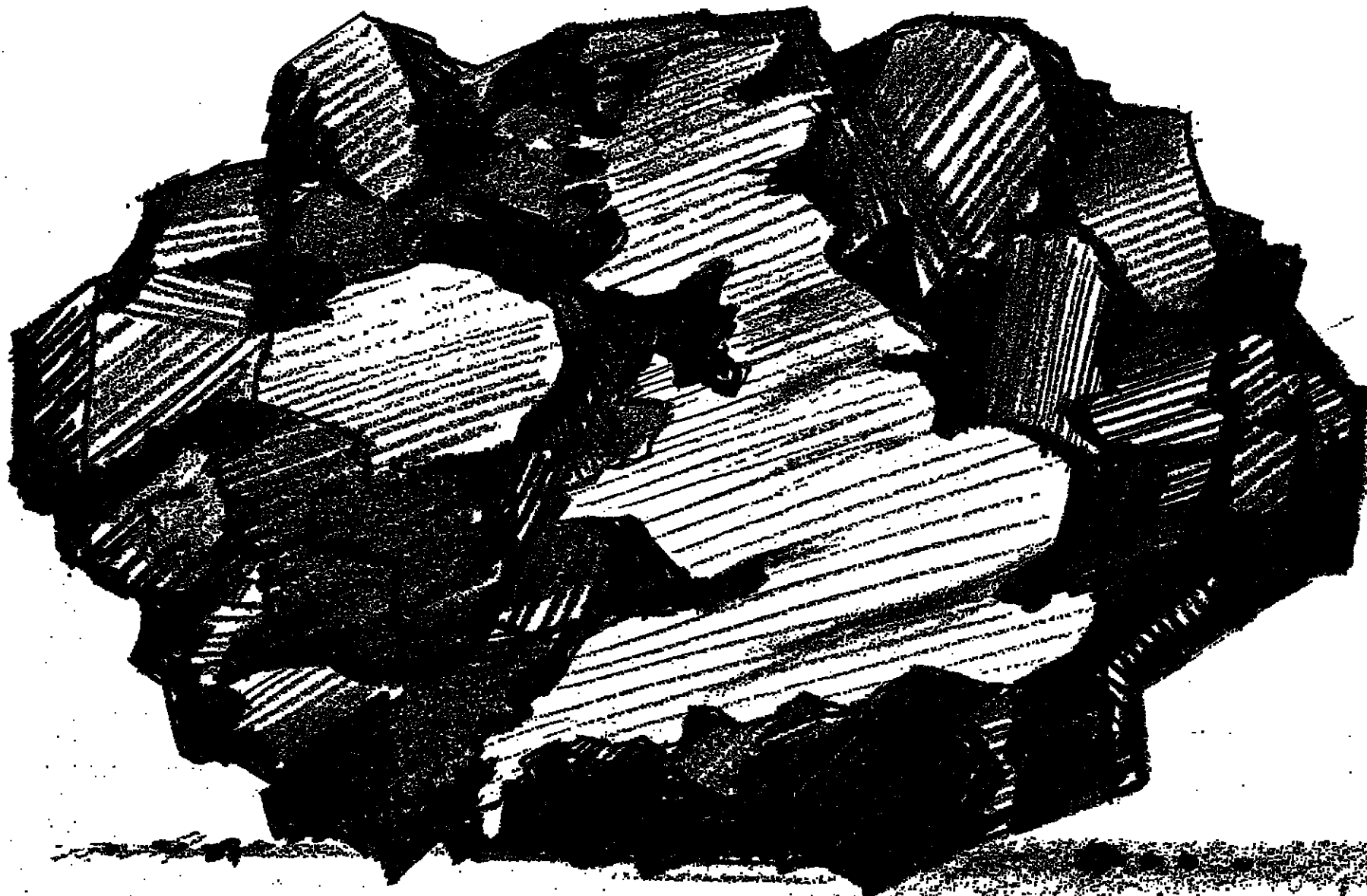
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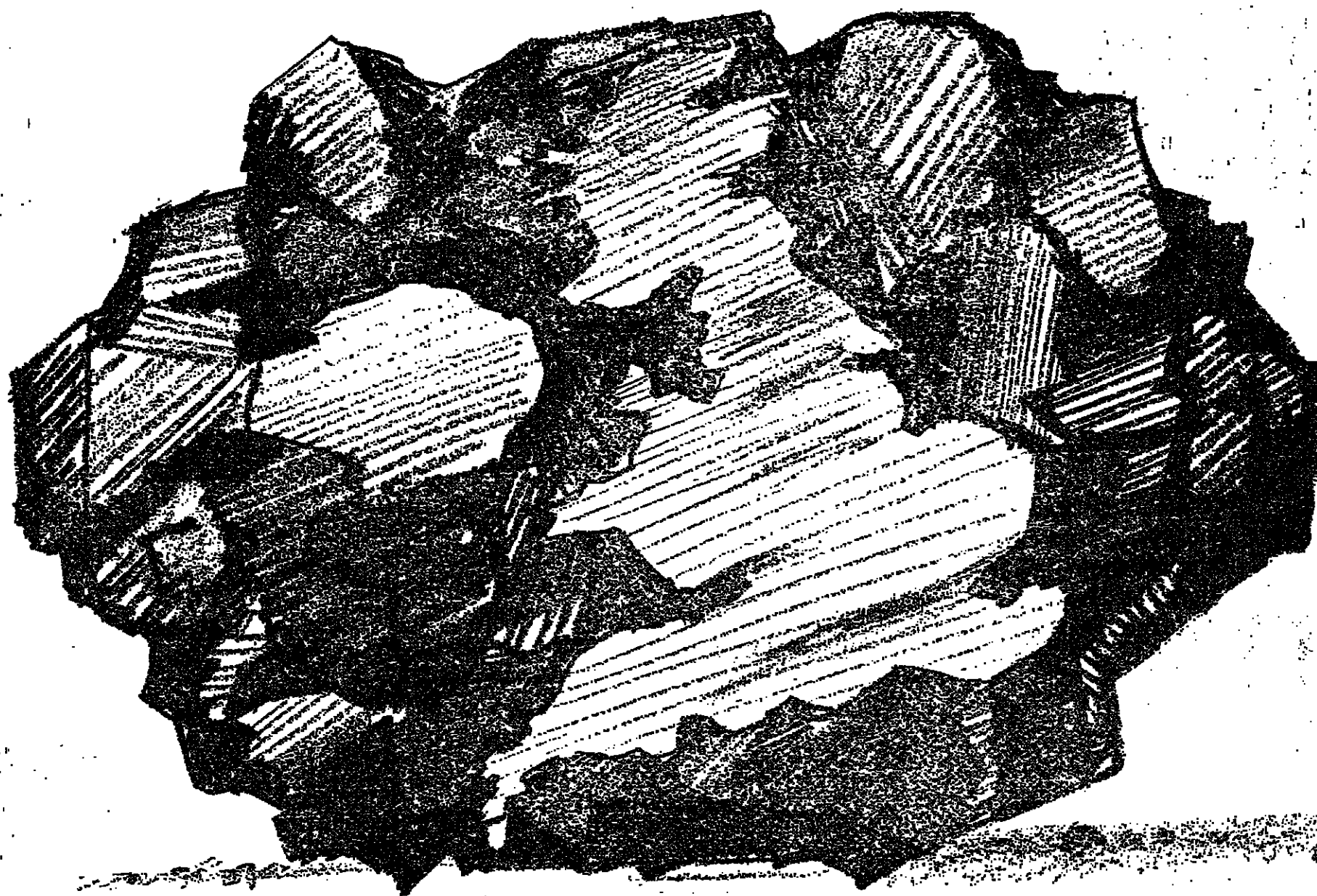
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Fascination in the darker corners

ro in his opening aria in *Barbieri* tells that he is all over town, ever at hand. Now it seems that Rossini's opera is over Britain: Rankin.

in the direction of the deeper emotions of Mozart's *Figaro* and, in the case of Bartolo, even to Verdi's *Falstaff*.

Bartolo is a man, like Falstaff, to be pitied. Enzo Dara, who has been singing the role regularly since he made his S


Television

Oddly reass

Samuel Ramey's Basilio is an outright success. It is a joy to hear a fresh voice in this role instead of the all-too-common bass of pensionable age. Basilio, in Ramey's lean figure, becomes a man of real menace, thwarting the aristocracy (Almaviva) and the trading classes (Figaro) alike. He is very much part of Hampe's overall plan as he persecutes Bartolo with his vicious umbrella and shove! hat. This is one of the hints that

The conductor Gabriele Ferro, making his Covent Garden debut as were Nafé and Van der Walt, is a Rossini specialist with a number of operas, both familiar and unfamiliar, under his belt. The overture lacked its proper undercurrent of insaturation and much of the orchestral playing that Act I could have done with the pizzicato in Abbado brings to this score. Act II had considerably more fire and gave an indication perhaps the Ferro to come in later performances. His chosen version, as usual nowadays, was Zedda's.

Thomas Allen: dashing performance as Figaro



performance as Figaro

Jonathan Hales's first venture into opera production, *The Barber of Seville* for Kent Opera at the Marlowe Theatre, can be deemed a safely uncontroversial one. He sets the piece in mid-

Victorian England, where it sits as satisfactorily as in any other period, though the design by Roger Putlin curiously juxtaposes a rather dingy alleyway at the end of which there is a neo-Gothic church with some rather delicious interiors made Italianate by the inclusion of window shutters.

While the gentlemen play their games of power, Rosina suffers all with amazing patience to escape from her guardian's possessiveness into her eventual marriage. Eirian James is perfectly cast in this role, pretty voiced as well as commandingly skilful. The housekeeper Berta (Jacqueline Evil) is subdued a degree too much for her one moment of glory, the *aria di sorbetto*, while Ralph Measley makes the most of the part of the Sergeant here, naturally, depicted as a Bow Street Runner.

Basilio in the dour and lofty figure of William Mackie might offer stronger support, but Arnold Ostman's direction of some tidy orchestral playing ensures that the evening, warts and all, goes with a swing. The production progresses this week to Southsea and afterwards to Norwich, Plymouth and Eastbourne.

S.P.

In his research for the book, which now returns to the Square after its first run, Michael Hastings assisted by the first Mrs. younger brother Colonel Haigh-Wood, who is the bulk of the material use of here. A portrait of a woman desperate identity, Vivienne's attempt escape the smothering bosom were dogged by and worse judgement forbidden early alliance retaliatory marriage to sexually repressed possible non-affair with Bertie and then all the sad clamor for attention which, Zelda's case, began with bravado and ended with creation

Mr Hastings has resisted temptation to present entirely as a martyr to his own character defects; they are both victims of the horror which with self-restraint remains offstage. The scenes are a succession of postcards in which Tom comes ever closer to the security he craves while Viv finds herself displaced, cancelled out.

I can't force the origin in Max Stafford-Clark's production last year, so I tell if Edward Herrmann improves on Tom Wilkins but the American actor beautifully controlled sonation of the poet sensitive, repeatedly seen on the edge of movement which are never realized. Herrmann's accent changes British after the interval has obviously done his work, for the few lines (serious) poetry he uttered with uncanny exactness soberly regretful cadence Eliot's recorded voice.

But his main achievement to illustrate on stage what he wrote about poetry being

escape from emotion; in the expression of persons but an escape from reality". This actor develops part as a process of effacement which becomes more was as the play progresses.

Julie Covington marries Viv - actress, sophisticated, often petulant - but nevertheless engages our sympathy. She should, even in her intimate with the chemist's assistant, befriends her. Perhaps she convinces us of her sanity.

David Haig's Maurice is a spirited antidote to the gloom of his sister's marriage. He is cheery, not very bright, a chap always ready to cheer others up with a slangy word. The period flavour of his vocabulary may be overdone at times but so are his lines are very funny in

● E. J. Craddock's Publishing
will appear tomorrow

Oddly reassuring

The *South Bank* team still seemed to experience some difficulty in filling the obligatory hour of the programme, and the first half-hour was so long but unilluminating extemporising from Mamet's stage plays and a number of rather strident generalizations from the writer himself. The most interesting comments came in fact from an actor, Jack Shepherd, who went through the vocabulary and cadences of one of Mamet's scripts – in the process, revealing it to be as artfully worked in its delectable idiosyncrasies in its rhythms. What else the play possessed was not immediately obvious from this programme, but Mamet him-

Credo examined the "oral outlook" by a public opinion pollster in the vehicle of philosophy. Some familiarity with the subject seems, however, to be a prerequisite for an influence" on more than one of it was less than according to this account, the old man in respects more than intolerance than the all this proves is the matter of course. The speaker, except the speaker, is always upon clichés when to "market" re- of this elevating water Ackroyd

Shostakovich's Sixth Symphony is supposed to be a baffling work, its Mahlerian first movement, a vast, despairing, bleating utterance followed by music which on the face of it seems tastelessly banal and altogether

When the curtain rises Richard Alston's *Wildlife* stage is almost entirely occupied by two constructions of fabric stretched over metal rods. These are the dominant features of Richard Smith's design.

hall, with the players fewer, the works more fragmentary and the listeners as widely spaced as the notes in a Webern score. Occasions of this kind seem like inquiries into absence, inviting one to blame deficiencies in the works for there being so deficient (in numbers only, I hasten to add) an audience. But then one may remember what Mahler had to say, in his music, about the relationship between popularity and quality.

The programme was neatly sandwiched between Schoen-

ignoble in comparison. But on Friday night I did not find it so. True, the piece sounded prematurely curtailed, as always, but there is, one now suspects, a good reason for that. For, though the symphony begins by staring into the abyss, what ensues. I would suggest, is a descent that goes as far as Shostakovich can bear, jolly tunes and all.

It may be an eccentric view, but this performance, under the

the two men who enter pass around and between them, like animals moving through a thicket.

Catherine Becque is the next to appear, jumping swiftly, like a gazelle, and the two men observe her in a detached fashion. The fabric structures rise, to look perhaps like the branches of trees, and throughout the course of the ballet they

berg's Chamber Symphony, Op. 9, scrambling to deal with the present recording of the work.

present according to the terms of the past, and Webern's Concerto, which offers the pretence of a past that is completely extinct a shell of antique form echoes with the motifs of a totally alien modernism. To follow these with Dallapiccola's *Greek Lyrics* was ingenious, for here the elements of Webern's style are given a tremulous anchorage in the dawn of our civilization, suggesting that these things are not

unimpassioned direction of Yuri Temirkanov, encouraged a fresh look at the Scherzo, undoubtedly a virtuosic orchestral romp (and there is no reason why it cannot be enjoyed for that alone) but also, surely, the superficial merrymaking of one haunted by dark thoughts. And, just as the music's frenzy increases in the finale, so the power of Fate becomes more dominant. The music is absurd, wild, hysterical; in fact, very

move up and down, are turned and manipulated, revealing different colours and designs, but overall giving little sense

Nigel Osborne's score is more helpful with its suggestion of bird calls, and Mary Evelyn's long solo, with its light, fluttering movements, could be described as avian.

new but merely rediscovered
Teresa Cahill sang the 13
miniatures delightfully.

To quite what past Brian Ferneyhough's *Carceri d'invenzione II* alludes I am not sure, but its beauty suggests there is much more here than the last desperate gambits of the avant-garde. A solo flute, fluting indeed well above the stave in high excitement for much of the time, gathers to him a group of violins who have their own tales to tell. Then lower strings enter

near madness. One may draw one's own conclusions on the significance of such an expression - the work was composed in 1939 - but it is little wonder that Shostakovich had to stop at the nightmarish false hilarity of a circus dance.

If the BBC Symphony Orchestra's playing of the work demands a stream of superlatives, that in Yo Yo Ma's magical reading of Dvořák's Cello Concerto was scarcely less

before there is a colour change to feature wind instruments, introducing generally slower, more conversational music, which is cut off by a momentous tutti, giving place finally to a pianissimo coda with horns and double bass in harmonics. Roberto Fabbri and the London Sinfonietta under Diego Masson gave a fascinating, hugely virtuosic performance.

Paul Griffiths

brilliant, allowing for a couple of slightly misjudged horn notes. The intensity of Ma's playing was something to be cherished, and with the BBC's woodwind in such fine form and some glorious solo work from the orchestra's leader, Rodney Friend, the alchemy of soloist, conductor and orchestra really did produce gold.

Stephen Pettitt

temperature rises are when the three women confront the men — and this could represent either courtship display or wildlife in a different sense. Despite some attractive moments, I feel the ballet leaves too many questions unanswered, or even unasked, to be counted among Alston's real successes.

Judith Crickshank

ENTERTAINMENTS

[illegible]

March 25, 1985

SPECIAL REPORT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/1

Britain keys into the high-tech future

Hundreds of millions have been invested to keep us in the IT industry during the next decade. Is it enough to meet the challenge of world opposition?

Information technology represents more than the marriage of computer and telecommunication technologies. It is one of the main arteries of any efficiently commercial body trying to compete in the world today. It is also an area which has attracted more political attention in recent years than any other sector of industry because of the failure by indigenous manufacturers to provide suitably competitive hardware to process data, software companies to write the computer programmes to manage that processing and an educational establishment to provide the workforce.

France has considered these issues at cabinet level. The West Germans, the Japanese and the Americans have all adopted government policies in various guises which sought the promotion of their IT industries. Britain is similar to France in some respects, by raising the issues at cabinet level.

The political momentum began about four years ago. Britain appointed an information technology minister, designated 1982 as IT Year and embarked on several campaigns to make UK business executives aware of the technology and the trends.

Despite political rhetoric which claimed the contrary, the companies have been relative failures and Britain is in a deep crisis. It has a trade deficit in IT of more than £2,000 million a year and rising. It also has a chronic shortage of skilled engineers, technicians, designers and similar professionals who would be able to reverse the flow.

In the last three years almost every journal with any political clout has been calling on the Government to act. Stimulus must be given to the industries to embrace the new technologies and the educational establishment influenced to produce the graduates and technicians that British industry desperately needs.

Science and Technology in January. The Lords pulled few punches and demanded action or the British IT presence would fade away in the next few years. Schools must be compelled to teach mathematics and science to all children below the age of 16. Computers must be integrated into all subjects and the quality of science teachers must be improved. It left the Government and British business people in little doubt about its conclusions.

The committee said: "If either the Government or industry thinks that the nation's economic problems can be solved without spending any money they are deluding themselves. In addition to the transfer of funds, increased investment is essential. Erosion of government funding for technological research should cease. University research should be strengthened, and new opportunities for research in polytechnics created."

Some IT programmes are still being part-financed by the Government, the most influential being the Alvey Programmes. John Alvey, technical director at British Telecom, studied IT resources available in Britain and how they could best be fused into advanced research teams which would combine the talents of industry and academia.

Those programmes, which will cost about £350 million; jointly financed by industry and the Government, are meant to ensure that Britain will be able to compete in the IT industry of the next decade.

The projects had been inspired by the Japanese efforts in 1982. In spring that year they had created the Institute for New Generation Computer Technology. According to its creators, "an environment will have to be created in which man and computer find it easy to communicate freely, using a wide variety of information media, such as speech, text and graphics, representing man's natural ways of communicating information."

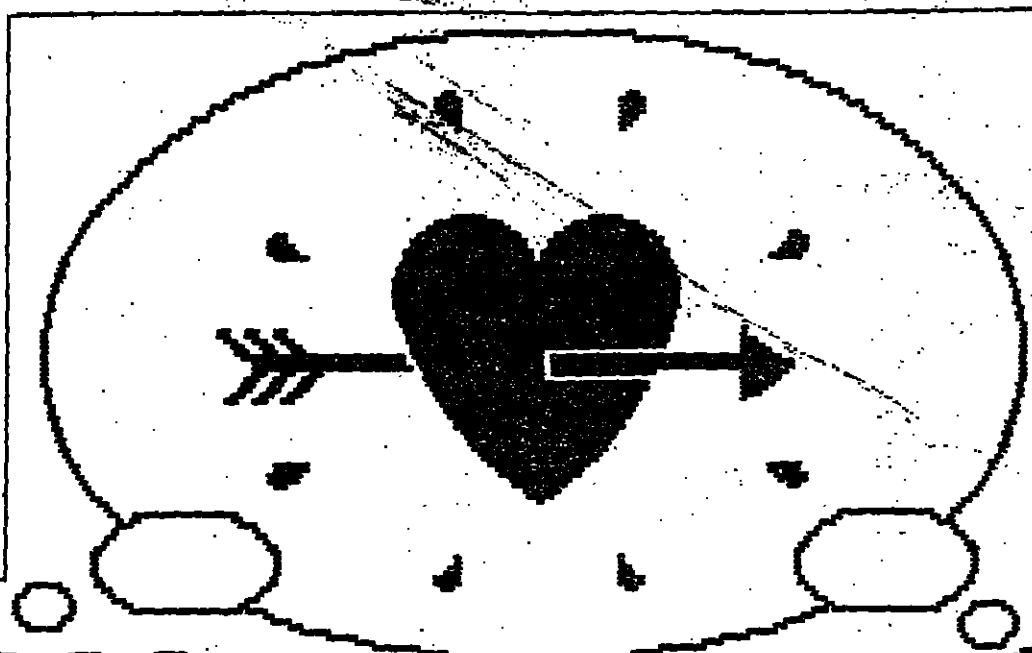
to join with it in seeking the IT technology of the 1990s - the so-called fifth-generation computers.

The international invitation extended by the Japanese inspired the Alvey programmes. It also encouraged the Europeans to initiate joint research projects. The £850 million five-year scheme - the European Programme for Research and Development in Information Technologies (ESPRIT) - has been created to encourage

international technical collaboration and to ensure that Europe as a technical force can compete in the next decade with the Americans and the Japanese.

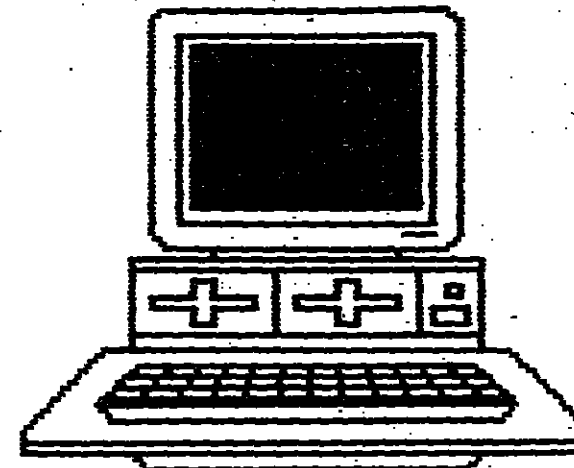
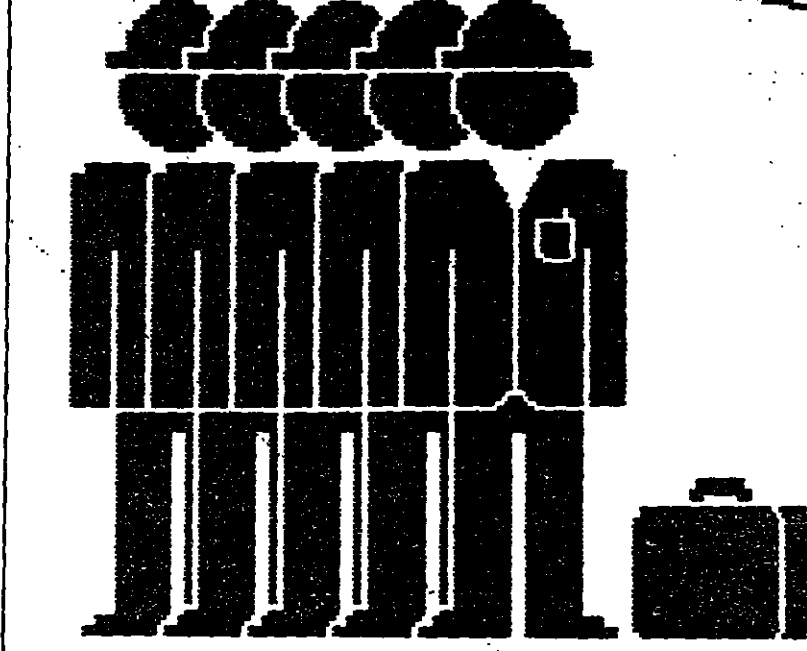
President Mitterrand has been a stalwart of IT and has had many meetings with foreign visitors, the classical example being the Versailles Summit, to talk about the importance of IT. The venues were usually peppered with displays of French technology.

The British Cabinet has also discussed the IT issue many times in the last five years. It was at the encouragement of Mrs Thatcher that the Information Technology Advisory Panel (ITAP) was created in 1981 to report on the trends in the industry and policies that government needs to adopt. While ITAP reported direct to the Cabinet Office its advice, contained in two major reports, has all but been ignored. The first provoked great



Man and machine learning to love and live with automation of the present and the style of things to come?

The Communication Studio



the much debated cable study was published in late 1983. Entitled *Making a Business of Information* it called on British industry to coordinate its activities and realize the selling and processing of information itself is an industry with substantial potential. It also called on the Government, as one of the principal generators of information which could be commercially exploited, to give a lead.

Non-sensitive trade and industry statistics, for example, if housed in a computer database and processed in a certain way, could be an attractive commodity for businessmen to buy.

The Government responded about six months later. It recognized the importance of what ITAP had recommended but it had no plan of action for forming a British information industry. It announced: "The Government acknowledges the importance of information in the economic, social and cultural activities of the country. In developing its policy towards this sector, the Government accepts that many information needs will, for years to come, be met by conventional handling techniques; that the public sector will inevitably retain a significant role in information provision and use."

It will be important to take into account the needs of these other users of information while seeking to establish a framework within which commercial interests can seize opportunities and to add value by processing and delivering information in forms which satisfy the needs of the market. It is as important to coordinate the activities of the information providers - government, newspapers, libraries - as it is the manufacturers who will provide the hardware to process information and the educational establishment which supply the brains to use it. That is the three-tiered strategy needed for the success of IT and anywhere in the globe. Britain is still taking its first faltering steps.

Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

each franchise to be local and embracing about 100,000 homes - a series of local broadband telecommunication networks which would link into the national public telephone system operated by British Telecom and Mercury Communications.

However the much publicized boost to be given to the IT industry through an expected exponential rise in cable laying was not to be realized. Last year's Budget brought to an end capital allowance that for many made this IT project uneconomical.

Another ITAP report which was of greater importance than

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*ITAP reports on Cable Television and Business of Information; National Economic Development Office reports on IT trade deficit and the IT skills shortages; Two reports by John Butcher, junior minister at DTI on skills shortages; Lords Select Committee report on Education and Training for the New Technologies

An alliance to fight invaders

Advances in computer science are making more impact on national security and economic progress than any other technology. So say two computer scientists who are calling for greater effort towards the creation of a new family of supercomputers.

The call comes from two specialists working with one of the most experienced computer teams in the world at the Los Alamos Laboratory in the United States. Their reasons, published last month in *Science*, the periodical of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, present a forceful explanation of the penalty to be incurred from falling behind in technology.

They say: The skill and effectiveness with which supercomputers can be used to design new and more economical civilian aircraft will help to determine whether there is employment in Seattle (the headquarters of the Boeing corporation) or in a foreign city. Computer-aided design of automobiles is playing an important role in Detroit's effort to recapture its position in the automobile market.

"The speed and accuracy with which information can be processed will bear on the effectiveness of the national intelligence service. It is thus a matter of concern that the traditional US leadership in supercomputer technology is being challenged by robust foreign competition."

The analysis they make spells out clearly that the "robust" threat comes from Japan. In particular, the shadow overhanging the future comprises two ambitious projects that the Japanese Ministry for International Trade and Industry launched more than three years ago.

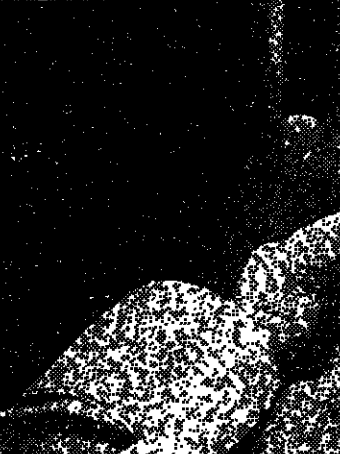
The first was the National Super-Speed Computer Project, a venture intended to produce a novel family of machines with a new level of performance for making elaborate calculations for scientific and engineering computation. The second enterprise was the introduction of the Fifth Generation Computer Project.

That is aimed at exploiting progress in endowing machines with a modicum of "artificial intelligence" and with the ability to follow spoken instructions given in normal language by an operator. The Fifth Generation is merely a generic description for what is intended to be a large family of machines destined for factories, offices, schools, laboratories, hospitals, professional consulting rooms and homes.

Japan's trade ministry, to attain international leadership in computer technology by the 1990s sent a shudder down the spine of America's hi-tech manufacturers. The chill which also went through Britain and her Continental neighbours was even colder, bearing in mind the gap which existed already between Europe and the United States.

An unusual reaction by American industry came in the form of a research company, Microelectronics & Computer Technology Corporation. Twelve large manufacturers agreed to establish the new firm, which would do the basic research into advanced technology that any of the consortium might need for product development.

In Europe the response was divided between national and local projects. The British effort is covered by a unique venture in collaboration between government departments, industry and academic research groups in universities and polytechnics, as recommended by a committee under John Alvey. The understanding is referred to as the Alvey programme. It is a five-year scheme supported by £350



John Alvey: A finger on the Man-Machine interface

million of taxpayers' money. Industry should get £300 million, and £50 million should be spent in academic institutions.

The plan behind the Alvey programme was based on a study, *A Programme for Advanced Information Technology* published in 1982. When it was adopted by the Government, a management team of administrators and technical experts were seconded from ministry departments and industry to establish a directorate to run the project.

In effect, the Alvey programme is a highly sophisticated pump-priming exercise. At the end of the day, the venture should produce the technological foundation for the next 15 years of the increasingly large number of firms representing the information technology industry.

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However worthy the aims of the enterprise, a natural difficulty comes with large companies, normally reluctant to share their future development plans with potential competitors. There is nothing new or surprising about that attitude. It was apparent in the past with other industries.

A good example was the circumstances which surrounded the separate research associations. They were jointly funded by government and industry research centres for each of the 50 main engineering and manufacturing sectors of the economy.

While major firms were happy to pay membership fees, they were less willing to encourage research which might be of strategic importance to their own plans.

The same sentiment seems to be shared by critics who foresee difficulties in the likely translation of Alvey aspirations into industrial products. Nevertheless, the first contract awarded under the Alvey umbrella was an impressive collaboration for research into software engineering. It was for the development of a software scheme called Integrated Project Support Environment (IPSE), which allows a common method of working by computer staff whether they are using a mainframe or microcomputer-based system. Whatever equipment is in use, individuals should be able to call on the same set of advanced procedures to help correcting errors in software, developing network systems and so on.

The IPSE project is called ASPECT, and various versions of ASPECT software will be released to anyone who wants to use the scheme in a series of extensions as the work on the development advances.

The most effective way to share information about tech-

nology was via an electronic mail scheme. So the local network created for the directorate's own services was linked into other networks. It is usual to exchange information through electronic mail, and as part of the overall research.

Proposals supported under the Alvey scheme should come from consortia consisting normally of at least two industrial partners and an academic and government research establishment. A group of this kind forms an Alvey Club.

These arrangements have a peculiarly British flavour and provide grounds for criticism, suggesting that the Alvey venture is too remote from the market.

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The most effective way to share information about tech-

Pearce Wright
Science Editor

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: All Company Directors
From: Information Systems Director
Ref: CHOICE OF IBM HARDWARE

Following our recent decision to upgrade our computer hardware, our data processing manager has proposed a viable alternative. The company in question is BASF. At our meeting next week we should consider the following points:

- COST-EFFECTIVENESS:** BASF's new Sierra box will save us between \$1.2 million over IBM's proposal.
- CHOICE:** BASF supply complete systems - op's from 2 to 60 mips, high speed line printers, tape drives and now they are offering high-performance double density 3580's.
- RELIABILITY:** From talking to their existing users, BASF hardware seems virtually problem free.
- SUPPORT:** Again, customers say that BASF's software support and engineering is about the best in the industry.
- DELIVERIES:** BASF's customer base report consistent adherence to promised delivery dates - often in front of the IBM equivalent.
- FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY:** After our leasing history, the contract flexibility offered by BASF will be extremely welcome. This will considerably reduce any exposure due to unpredictable growth rates.

In view of the advantages offered by BASF, I think we owe it to our shareholders to pursue this proposal.

B. J. Honey

BASF

For full information on BASF's comprehensive range of IBM plug-compatible equipment, please contact Bob Hodgath, Divisional Manager, Computer Division, BASF United Kingdom Limited, 4 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6ER. Telephone: 01-388 4200.

Companies must train – or take the strain

The poaching by employers of people skilled in that amalgam of computing and communications referred to as information technology is a firmly established part of the industry. In California's Silicon Valley tales abound of secret late-night meetings, bizarre deals and lawsuits aimed at preventing employees from taking their specialized knowledge to a competitor.

In the UK, however, such practices are very rare; but in the more humdrum world of seeking staff for commercial data processing it is all too true that many employers prefer to poach experienced staff rather than go through the expensive and risky task of developing the talent themselves. One recent survey by the National Computing Centre, showed that despite a predicted increase in the demand for most levels of computer staff fewer than a third of 300 sites surveyed actually did any training.

Little surprise then that several reports – including two by industry minister John Butcher's IT skills shortage committee – have bemoaned the continuing shortage of information technology manpower.

One of the major problems is that of the various interests involved few can agree. For many employers the solution to such shortages is seen as the responsibility of the education system. It should provide, say some, far more technology and engineering courses in general with a movement towards a far more commercially oriented content in them.

But the Government is firmly convinced that employers must take a hefty share of the responsibility for training.

Mr Butcher's first report last summer put it succinctly: "Ministers are likely to take particular account of the extent to which costs might be shared by those sectors of the economy with the greatest manpower demand".

And there was a rap on the knuckles for both sides from the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology which concluded in its second report: "If the Government or industry thinks that the nation's problems can be solved without spending any money

they are deluding themselves." What is clear is that while there is a great deal of rhetoric about the need for new initiatives and partnerships, money, apart from piecemeal efforts, is certainly not forthcoming in any large way. Even with the help of a few large companies such as CEC and Rank Xerox which do seem willing to spend some money, current expenditure is likely to make only a minor dent if predicted shortfalls in information technology skills are to be believed. According to the NCC survey, the current shortage of programmers and analyst programmers is around 10 per cent while for system analysts it is 8 per cent. And for certain jobs such as systems analysts and network and database controllers the shortage is predicted to rise to over 50 per cent in the next five years.

Mr Butcher's second report defined the problem as a need to double the number of people trained in computer skills each year.

But for those who believe there are lies, damned lies and

Modest average salary rise

statistics, blanket projections of shortfalls bear further examination. If demand is booming and we are already suffering from a significant shortage it might seem strange that amidst the poaching of experienced staff, salaries in the IT field rose by only a modest average of 7 per cent during 1984 – comparable with many other types of jobs.

Some surveys, both of current staff shortages and future ones, ask managers what their staff requirements would ideally be if experienced staff were available. Ask many managers throughout industry whether they need more staff now or in the future and no doubt the answer would frequently be yes. It is unlikely that organizations would hire such desirable levels of experienced staff should they magically become available overnight.

In information technology predicting the future is notoriously difficult. Take, for example, the advent of so-called

fourth generation software tools – aimed both at helping programmers increase productivity by generating program codes automatically and to allow non-computer experts to design and access their systems more easily. How quickly the use of these products becomes possible will obviously affect future staff requirements. Manufacturers involved in information technology are

moving – albeit very slowly – towards making their products easier to use by those unwilling to soak themselves in the mystique of the data processing department.

And how fast will others in organizations realize that a facility with using information technology – rather than inventing or developing it – should be treated in as commonplace a fashion as acquiring the ability to drive a car.

Where skill shortages can be seen more clearly is in the much smaller world of those companies directly involved in the inventing of high technology products rather than the expanding world of those using them.

Though the Government is preparing measures to attempt to alleviate the problem it still sees its role as that of catalyst, encouraging and assisting industry to get more involved in the financing of such training.

Large scale government funding of universities to provide the extra places needed does not appear to be an option.

The answer, as far as the Government sees it, is likely to be an extension of what has already happened at Salford University.

Professor John Ashworth was appointed as vice-chancellor at Salford in 1981, and with a philosophy of designing courses suitable for industry the university now earns more than £8 million per year from industrial sponsorship. The most recent scheme is for an Information Technology Institute to be established, though this would require, says Professor Ashworth, £19 million from the

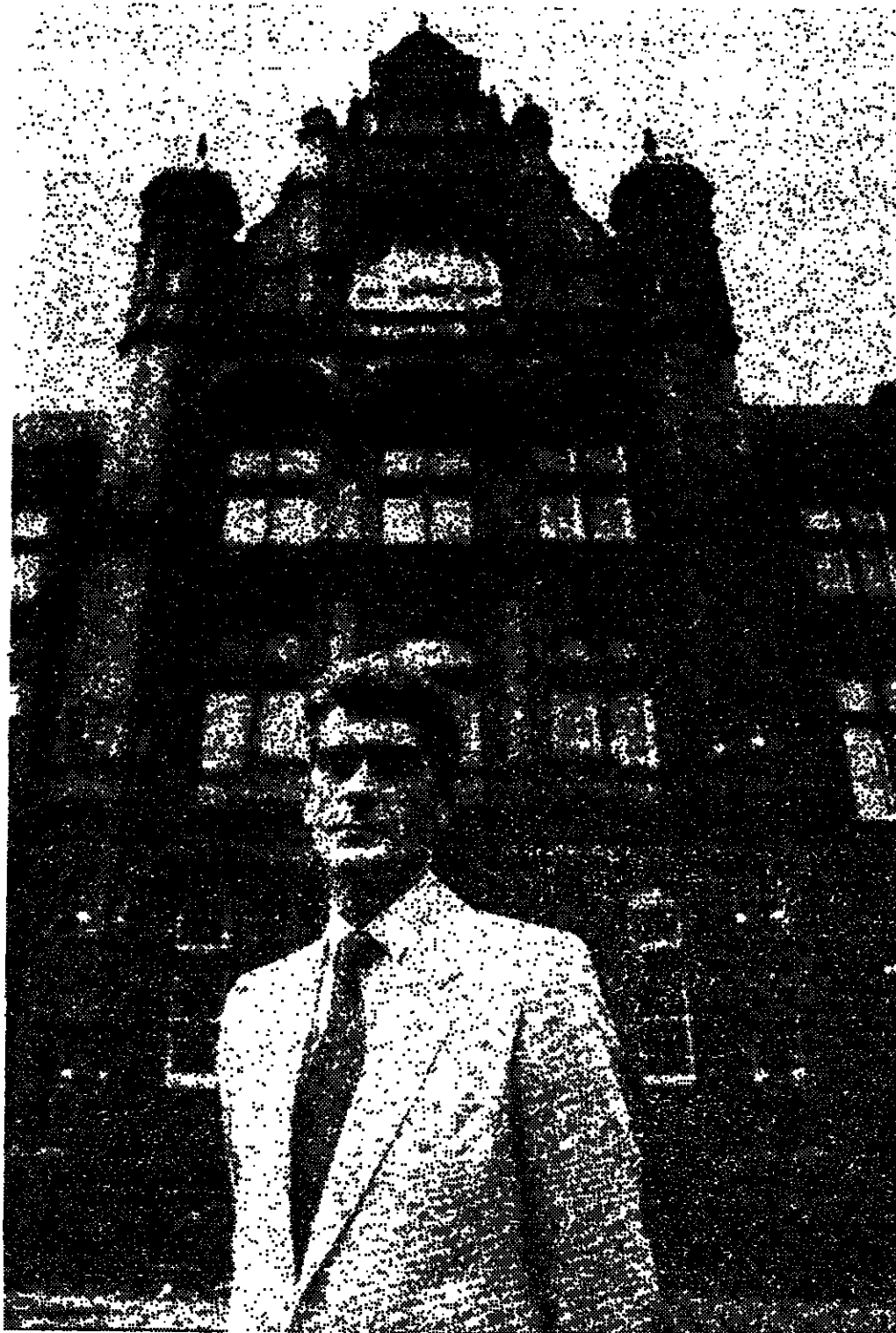
New technology institute

Government over the next six years which would be matched with £12 million from high technology companies.

This would then supply 360 graduates and 250 postgraduates a year. There is a similar scheme to set up a new technology institute attached to the Cranfield Institute of Technology.

Whatever the final mixture of how such projects are funded it is clear that money spent on education and training in information technology is unlikely to be wasted.

Matthew May



Professor John Ashworth: Designing courses to suit industry

Facts for the money men

The financial world may be concerned with money matters, but it is information on trading in the various markets, rather than money itself, which governs its prosperity.

Without up-to-date information, dealers in equities, commodities and foreign exchange could not do their jobs effectively. The risk of making wrong decisions, and therefore losses on transactions, could be high and would have many adverse economic effects.

Such information, however, has to be instantly accessible whenever required, because decisions on making transactions in these markets usually have to be reached on the spot. There is little time to deliberate on making a transaction, as competition is generally intense. Any undue delay in deciding means loss of trade and profit to someone else.

Information technology, with its ability to gather, store, disseminate and display data worldwide within seconds, provides an attractive solution to this problem, particularly as it has the added advantage of being able to analyse market data for significant information, again within seconds.

It is not surprising therefore, that since the mid-sixties, when the first computer-based international securities/commodities service came into operation, the supply of IT-based financial information services has become a multi-billion dollar industry with a current growth rate of more than 40 per cent a year.

From initially providing close-of-trading details of the world's principal securities and commodities markets, the range of services and the number of information suppliers has increased considerably.

A recent report listed 40 companies offering services ranging from instant access to databases of national/international financial and economic statistics, plus news, statistics and analyses to aid traders' decision-making.

Dominating the international financial information market is Reuters, which started the world's first international securities/commodities service in 1964, and has since built up the broadest range of services. These are supplied by Reuters' own worldwide telecommunications network to 20,000 subscribers in 100 countries – more than 50,000 terminals in all.

Providing strong international competition is the US news agency AP/Dow Jones, which has separate joint-venture agreements with two leading American suppliers, Quotron and Telerate, to market their services outside the North America.

Quotron specializes in equities and commodities, and Telerate in foreign-exchange and money markets. Both dominate the US financial information market in their respective fields, Quotron having 70,000 terminals throughout America, and Telerate around 12,000.

Quotron, on the other hand, is a newcomer to the international scene. Having confined its activities to the United States since it was formed 25 years ago, it set up an office in London late last year. The company is about to open a \$3 million computer centre in London which will be linked to Quotron's computer centre in New York, and which in turn will serve a network of computers in the rest of Europe.

This recent interest in the rest of the world by American

IOTAS short-circuits the paper-intensive and time-intensive processes inherent in making deals and effecting settlements, locally and internationally. Subscribers can link together clients, investment managers, brokers, markets, settlement agents and custodians, through the same terminal.

The London Stock Exchange has not stood idly by in the face of these various developments. On the contrary, it has more than 15 years' experience in financial information services, having introduced its first system, MPDS, in 1969. It has also supplied computer-readable data from its EPIC database computer system to other organizations for many years.

In 1980, it introduced a videotex service called Topic which, in addition to stock market prices, provides a wide variety of constantly updated information, including unlisted securities, traded options, company announcements, money rates, foreign exchange, economic news, analyses and forecasts.

In addition, the system has a number of closed-user groups run by leading stockbrokers which offer specialized services such as North American security prices and a variety of historical and analytical information.

Further improvements are planned with the addition of more information from worldwide markets,

and increased access to forecasts from leading economic and financial institutions. At present, Topic offers some 20,000 colour pages of data in all. Intended as an efficient and practical aid for investment managers and advisers, Topic currently offers some 20,000 colour pages of information in all, and has the capacity for 100,000.

The Stock Exchange is also planning its own electronic over-the-counter trading system. Called SEAO (Stock Exchange Automatic Quotation System), it is scheduled to be introduced late next year when deregulation of the Stock Exchange – known as The Big Bang – comes into force.

Deregulation will enable member firms to be both jobbers (market makers) and brokers, (not either one or the other as at present). In addition, financial institutions such as banks will be able to have holdings in member firms, a rule that has already been partially relaxed.

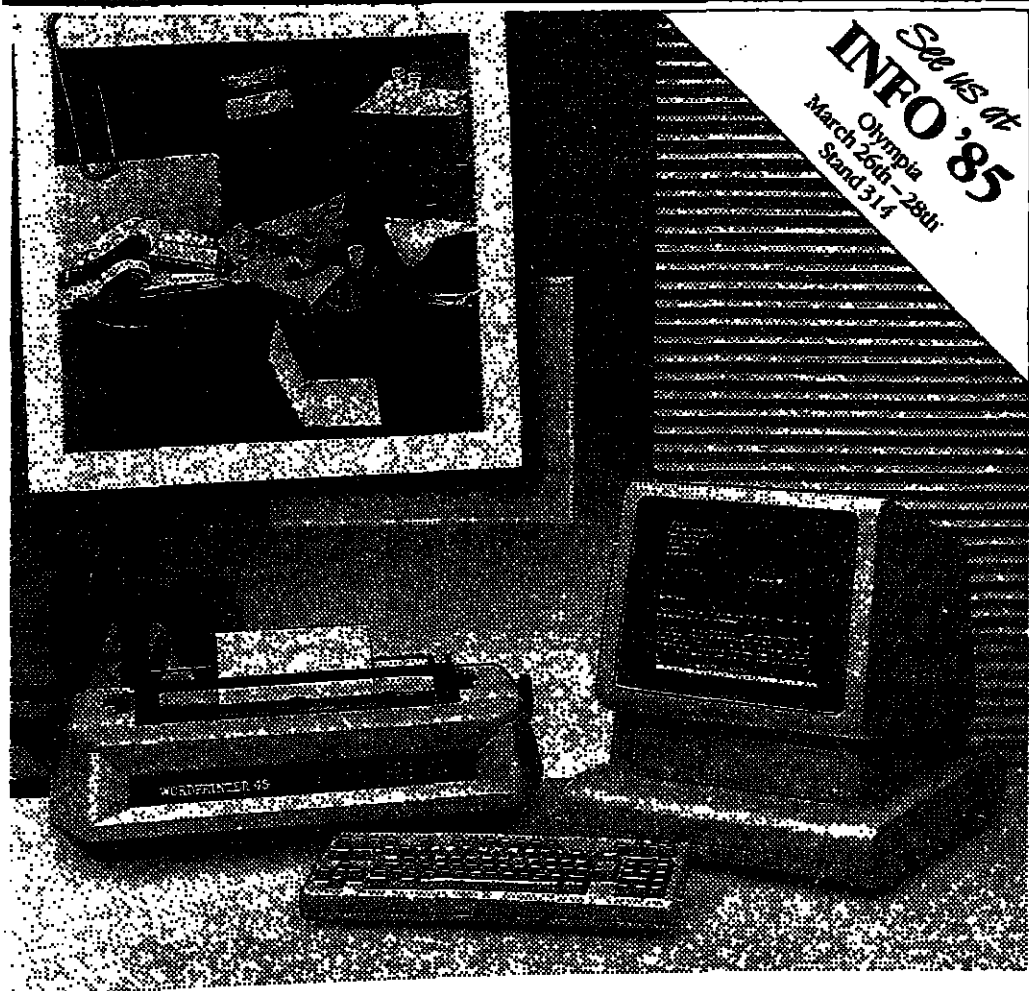
As with NASDAQ, SEAO will enable share transactions to be made in dealers' offices nationwide. Its pages will give relevant transaction details such as the 10 market makers of any one stock, and minimum-size prices.

Initially, SEAO will complement the floor of the Stock Exchange, rather than replace it. But the prospect of the floor becoming redundant seems inevitable. Indeed one senior member predicts this will happen within four years.

Frank Brown



Big deals: Midland Bank's dealing room



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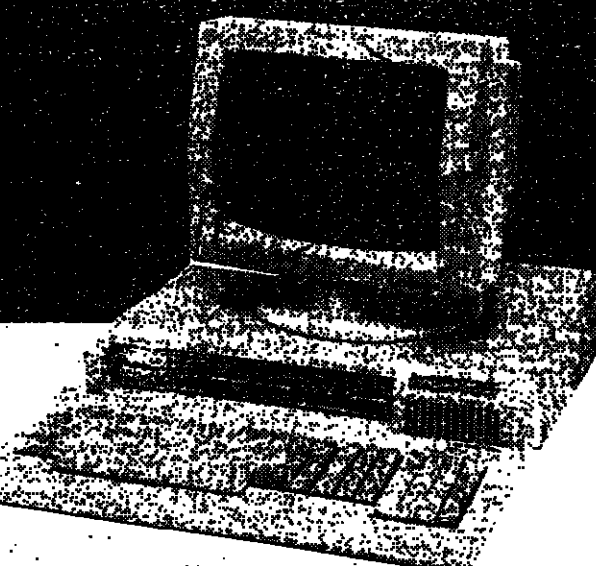
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Businesses are now buying the new equipment but many managers are finding that they have incompatible items

Office automation at a difficult age

The signs are that office automation is beginning to grow up. It has at least reached puberty, but like any teenager who has spent his first pay packets on a wardrobe of clothes that never seem to blend, a great many offices now have the same mis-match of equipment.

In the context of the office, this is apparent when the time comes to link separate items to one another. There is nothing wrong with the products as such. The question is how to make it easier for the customer to use the equipment effectively, making information flow smoothly between all the ingredient parts of office automation.

This is one of the most important lessons emerging from office automation.

Managers are now taking stock of equipment that won't "talk" to other equipment: micros and word processors that cannot link up and milk facts and figures from databases on mainframe computers; machines that work to one standard at headquarters and others that come up with quite a different format at a remote office, so that documents which should flow between the two actually quite often have to be retyped when it arrives at a regional office.

The pressure is now on to make a coherent link between equipment which was bought in good faith, but which is now limiting, rather than encouraging, the expansion of true office communications systems.

What everybody wants to know now is how long we shall have to wait for internationally accepted standardization of equipment.

The desperate need to make the component parts of office automation blend was demonstrated in two ways recently.

The first came in an edit from the Treasury's Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA) to companies supplying government departments with information technology equipment. Henceforth, manufacturers must provide additional details about their future intentions to ensure that their machines can be linked to other makes, as

automation systems grow in a particular office.

In addition, equipment of different suppliers also has to be able to exchange information over long distance communications links as a matter of course.

This requirement of the CCTA is contained in a "statement of intent" in support of Open Systems Interconnection (OSI). The idea of OSI is to extend to office systems the same sort of international standards which enables the telephone exchanges of the world to connect together.

The second pointer came from the buyers, and this was perhaps just as significant. People who are using office automation equipment crowded into a seminar on standards run by the National Computer Centre (NCC) in Blackpool last month.

The delegates - from manufacturing, commerce and the service industry in public and private sectors - wanted guidance to make sure they bought compatible products. They complained about the slow pace of development of public standards.

Steve Price of the NCC, said few people would have taken any interest five years ago. Now they are demanding more seminars.

Details of how OSI should work are being drawn up by joint industry and Government teams. This month another three sets of recommendations for OSI, vital for the development of office systems, were announced by the Department of Trade and Industry's IT Standard's Unit covering local area networks.

A report of the new standards in the department's newsletter on its office automation pilot project scheme, the *Bulletin*, says: "Information Technology is not only a distributed technology, because users and machines are often spread far apart, it is also a very wide-ranging one, affecting office procedures, industrial processes, financial transactions, retailing, databases, information systems and education."

To serve all these needs a multi-supplier industry is needed, but at the same time it is important that equipment from different suppliers should be "able to talk to one another."

We have a long way to go before information can be



moved around the world from computer to computer as easily as we can pick up a phone and dial almost anywhere in the world. But a lot of international brainpower is going into perfecting OSI.

The "upstart" micro, which brought computer power into the hands of ordinary people without going through the hard school of practical experience, left a lot of data-processing

professionals thinking they were no longer wanted.

Now, as this urge to link up equipment gathers momentum, the mainframe (and the mini) is back in universal favour. It has returned to the centre of the stage because it has become the storehouse of essential corporate vital statistics - the payroll, personnel lists, budgets etc - gathered greedily over the years.

Information can be selected from that repository at the press of a button and incorporated, for example, into a report being drafted on a terminal.

That report, in turn, is transferred to all the other

people who are involved in drafting, say, the company's financial plan, thereby getting the final draft assembled and agreed entirely by electronic means, from mainframe, mini and micro.

Although there is a surfeit of equipment, innovation in electronic products flourishes. The one that is about to make a big impact is the portable personal computer.

Clive Leyland, principal in charge of the Microguide Service at Arthur Andersen and Company, says: "In volume terms today's personal computer penetration is nothing; wait until the personal portable becomes a practical reality."

One of the latest portable computers, which should be available in April, is the Liberator text processing system. It has been developed by the Central Computer Telecommunications Agency and Thorn-EMI, and was designed, after demands from users, primarily for Civil Servants who spend a great deal of time away from their offices.

The CCTA decided that what was needed was something new, designed specially for non-computer people.

The commands and instructions are written in simple

English, trouble has been taken to make it more straightforward to link up to printers, and it can stay on an office desk, linked to an existing system, or go out of town in a briefcase.

To speed the information back to base, all the operator will need is to be at home, in a hotel room, airport lounge, even a car - wherever there is a telephone.

If improvements in the liquid crystal display screens of the portable computer come along, making them larger and easier to read, it could mean that in future portable computers could begin to take the place of heavy, fixed terminals and a piece of standard office automation equipment.

The new age of cellular radio, too, is spawning important new approaches. Transam Microsystems Ltd are about to bring out an in-car modem - the M1 - which transfers information between a central computer and moving or stationary vehicle.

Using this with a portable computer, say the manufacturers, will transform any vehicle into a mobile office, particularly useful for those who need to call up or send information to and from a central office when they are out in the field.

At the National Computing Centre the chairman, Professor John Ashworth, told a recent conference on office automation that the current joke is: "How do you keep a secret from the chairman?" Answer: "Put it in his electronic mailbox."

The story was used to illustrate a crucial point: "The electronic mailbox may reduce secretarial effort and delivery time, but it also demands a

Electronic mailbox demands discipline

greater discipline from managers who will be expected to find out what is actually in the mailbox."

A common complaint about electronic mail from managers is: "Where do I sign it?" A good point, when the chairman wants to be quite sure his message is positively identified as being from the board - not a disgruntled employee making mischief.

The number of people using electronic mail - either on an internal or a public subscriber network such as Telecom Gold - is undoubtedly growing, but the situation is similar to that in which an early subscriber had the only phone in town.

But there are areas where electronic messaging systems are beginning to take over from paper memos. At the National Coal Board headquarters more than a hundred people use Wang equipment to send notes and internal messages.

The Digital Voice Exchange (DVX) means they can use a telephone handset to get into the system. It can be used from any outside telephone and messages can be sent to just one person or distributed.

At the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), administrative and scientific information flows constantly on the local area network and the wide area network, which links them with universities and laboratories such as CERN in Switzerland.

They have taken part in two Department of Trade and Industry pilot projects and are working on a scheme based on the IBM PROFS (Professional Office System). Dr Keith Jeffery, who heads the Administrative Computing Group, sees the automation as being a "library and a large calculator at my fingertips all at once."

For many managers the next crucial question about interlinking equipment is: how do

prise their way into the external electronic data bases which are steadily building up.

A rich seam of these data bases - storing and updating information faster than any reference library, a collection of commercial, financial, legislative, parliamentary records - is out there just waiting to be mined.

Managers faced with the problem of connecting up the equipment they already have or planning how to phase it out and reintroduce specially selected products that are compatible for linking to the network will clearly also want to plan for good, efficient external connections so that they can tap the potential of incorporating high-speed relevant information into their own operations.

Rita Marshall

For information and literature about the Department of Trade and Industry pilot projects contact Room 613, 29, Broad Street, London W1A 1SD, the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA), Riverside House, Wilbank, London. Transam Microsystems Ltd, 29-31 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8SL.

Considering investment in: CAD? CAM? CAPM? ROBOTICS? FMS?

The Department of Trade and Industry has extended its Awareness Programme to cover all aspects of Advanced Manufacturing Technology. It is designed to assist in your plan of campaign for the installation of advanced manufacturing technologies under the following areas:

AWARENESS

In-House AMT Seminar Kit
Case Study Videos
The Mobile Demonstration Unit

EDUCATION

Visits to Demonstration Firms
Audio Visual Packages
Information Service

CONSULTANCY

Feasibility Studies and
Project Planning grants.

TRAINING

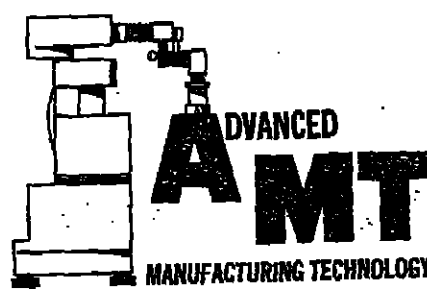
Manufacturing Workshops
KEYTECH Training Seminars
The CAD/CAM Curriculum

DEMONSTRATION

Visits to Demonstration Firms
The Mobile Demonstration Unit

Details of all these activities can be obtained from:
The CAE Data Service, The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL
(Tel: 01-240 8159).

The Department will be on stand 834 at CAD 85 where you are welcome to discuss the AMT Awareness Programme in detail.



Japan well ahead in fifth generation game

European industry will find it harder than it believes to catch up with the Japanese in its efforts to develop the so-called fifth generation of computers. The prediction carries some weight because it is from the West German Institute of Economic Affairs.

The anxieties expressed were not confined to Western Europe. There were reservations too about the ability of even the powerful high-technology industry of the United States to overhaul, in the medium term, the lead established by the Japanese.

Two key reasons lay behind the assessment. In Europe, the efforts to produce the new generation of equipment and systems were seen as "too splintered to achieve the necessary programme of consolidation". And second, even in the US, there was not thought to be an obvious programme of research and development that was "all-encompassing and sufficiently capital-intensive in direction" to make up the leeway.

The economic institute's conclusions came from an assessment of the proposals for the European Strategic Programme of Research and Development into Information Technology, Esprit.

The European Community agreed to spend more than £900 million over five years on the venture. Moreover, it was accepted without quarrel at a time when the politicking over the EEC budget was at its most intense.

Though the sum is big, the number of ways in which the money could be shared is also large. Staff working on the Esprit programme estimate that there are probably 20,000 companies forming the foundation of the information technology business throughout Europe, but the commission knows directly only about 7,000 of them. The second difficulty is devising a strategy that is complementary with the specific research of member countries, and which also meets the special interests in, say, computer-integrated manufacturing, office automation or advanced methods of design and manufacture of electronic circuits and microprocessors, by any one of them.

At one level the definition of what is meant by the fifth generation is straightforward:

● The first generation was based on discrete components using vacuum tube (hard valve) technology.

● The next was based on discrete components (resistors and capacitors) and separate transistors.

● The third generation was based on the early integrated circuits, with a few components and transistors etched on to a

chip. But some discrete components were still needed.

● The current fourth generation is evolving into large-scale integration with several thousand devices on a chip.

The most commonly discussed feature of the forthcoming generation is the ability to allow "knowledge-based" or artificial-intelligence systems to be developed.

In conceiving the Esprit approach, advisers to the European Commission prepared a list of the key technologies which they believed were needed, then set about devising a plan of how those technologies could be acquired.

In that planning process a number of broad fields of

application were identified from a market point of view. These sectors included telecommunications and satellites, integration of communication and data-processing technologies for purposes such as office automation, home and personal electronics, and industrial measuring and control equipment.

No country in Europe was believed capable of covering the entire spectrum of technological options that was embraced by the potential applications. The subsequent approach chosen for Esprit had three characteristics. One was to aim at pre-competitive technology, which involved basic research with long lead times to provide an enabling technology available to

European firms in general. The second was to ensure that medium-term work related to a specific type of industrial application was conducted with the close cooperation of those who would eventually employ the technology. Third, the overall pattern of work by Esprit had to be of a substantial scale, adequate to catch up and match the equivalent efforts of Japan and the US.

The most difficult of the three is proving to be the aspect of the second area of work that requires the mobility of engineers and technologists inside Europe and the need to stimulate technology transfer between countries.

PW

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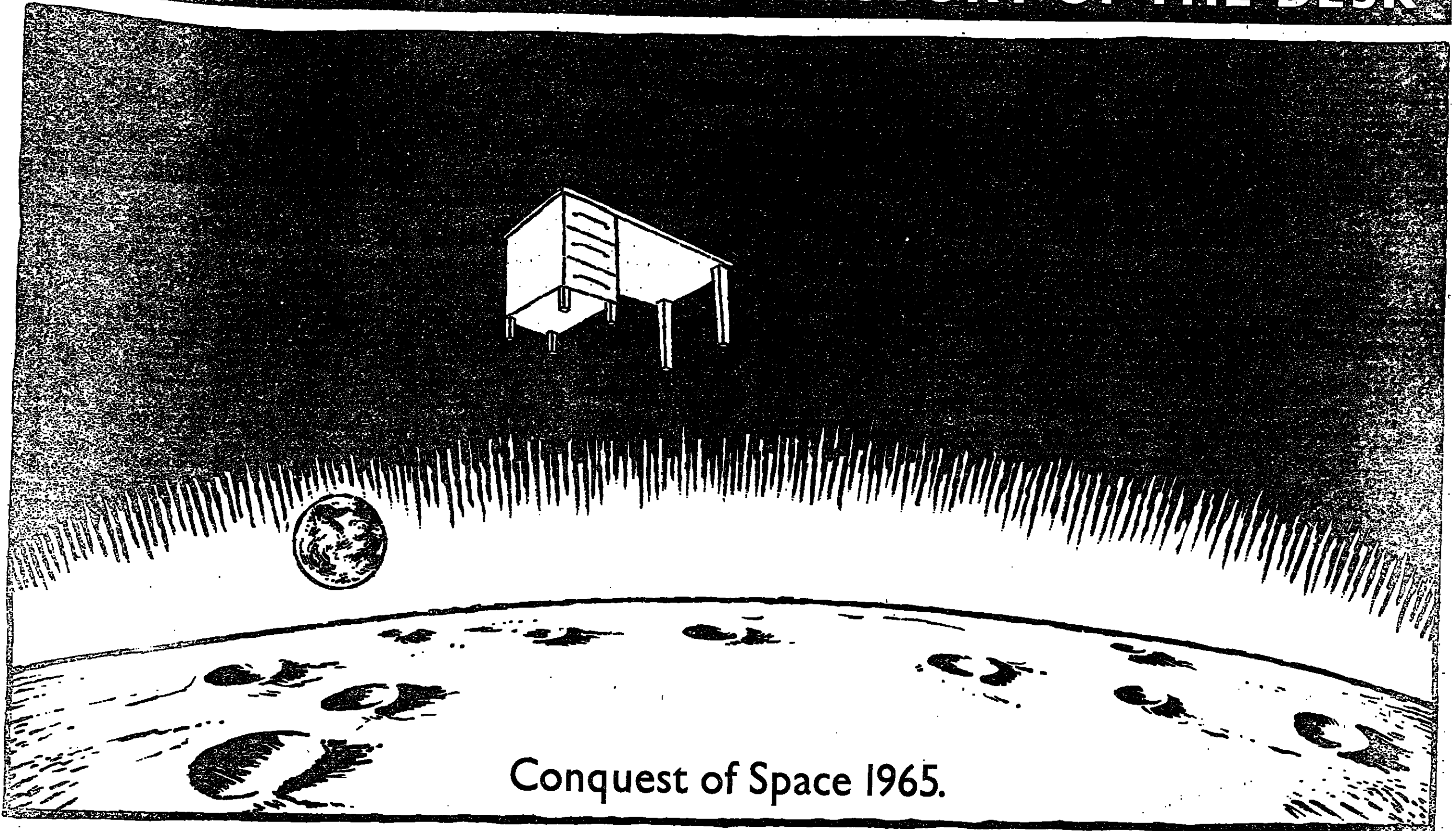
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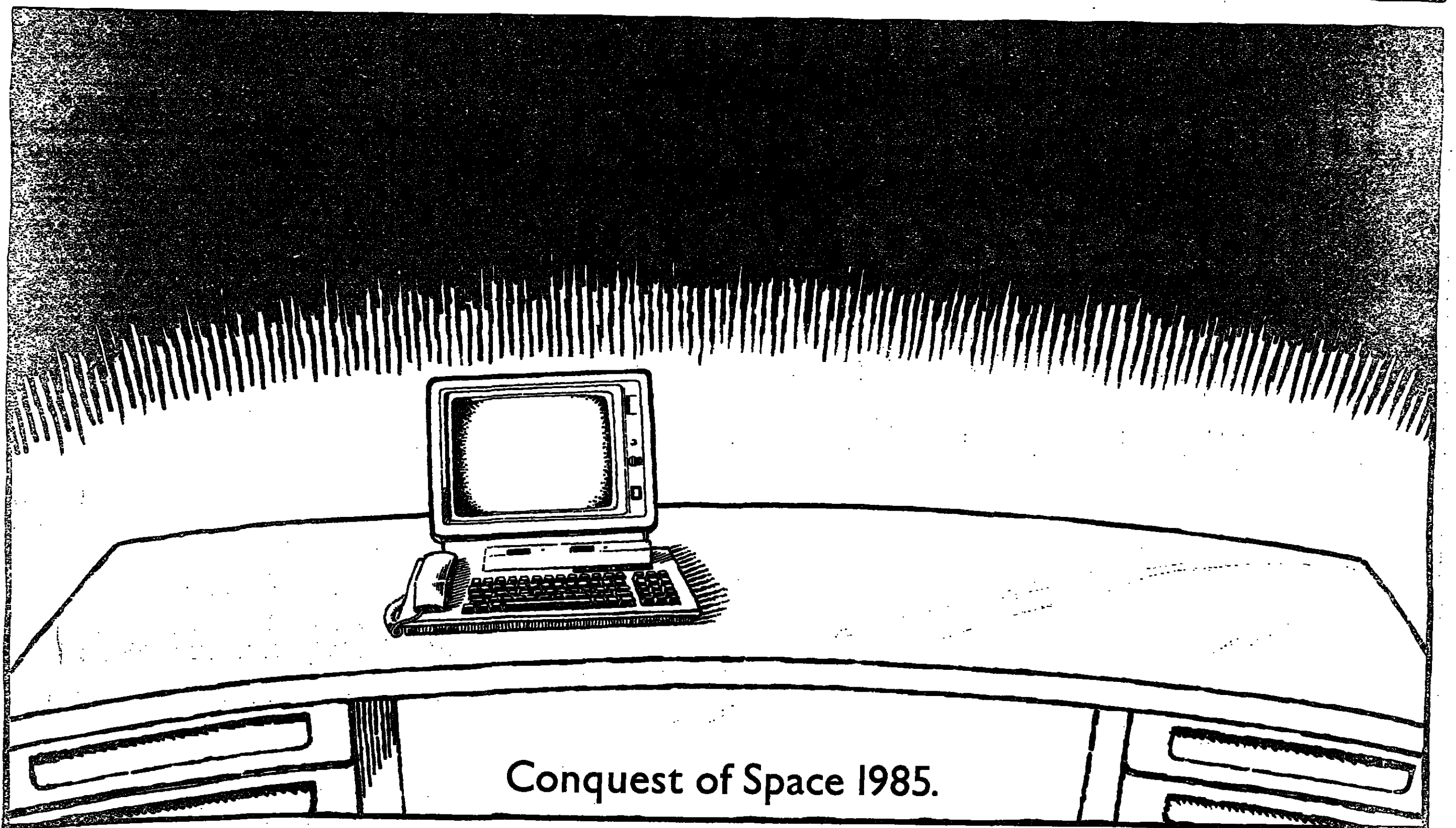


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Commerce to the rescue

The education of engineers and technicians is undergoing a revolution, according to the creators of the new Institute of Information Technology based in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. It is revolutionary because it has been created by funding from industry and the courses will make the college self-financing.

The idea of such an institute is an uncomfortable one for the educational establishment to accept. It reeks of sponsorship and graduates with narrow vision. However, the quality of some of the engineering graduates and the quantity have led to widespread criticism of the educational establishment.

Using the old methods of education it would take more than £200 million to provide the 5,000 engineering graduates which many government reports say are needed for Britain to reverse its IT trade deficit of £2,000 million a year.

More than £10 million will establish the college which will open its doors this year. Companies such as STC, BICC, Racal, Thorn-EMI, Plessey and Cable & Wireless will contribute the all-important funding for the new institute. The college will provide special conversion courses for 5,000 students a year, and more than 1,000 graduate and postgraduate places. Those courses are expected to generate an income of about £25 million for the college every year. The driving force behind the institute is Sir Henry

Chilver, vice-chancellor of Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedfordshire.

Chilver pioneered a similar type of educational revolution at Cranfield. His experience in providing top-quality facilities for training engineers and technicians in high-technology warmed industry to him. He does not think like an academic. Chilver also adopted unusual methods to attract students. Cranfield tendered in competition with other institutes of higher education for a contract to educate and train graduate and postgraduate engineers for the Ministry of Defence.

In effect, education under contract

Cranfield succeeded in getting the five-year project. About 250 engineering graduates will be given a three-year course and a further 50 will study for postgraduate MSc and PhD degrees.

It is, in effect, education under contract. It is, however, an approach which many universities have used when trying to attract foreign students. Tenders are made to foreign governments for training skilled people. But the approach is not adopted by British further education institutes when trying to attract students from within Britain.

The success of the ministry contract bid inspired Chilver

with ideas. The students would be taught at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, Berkshire.

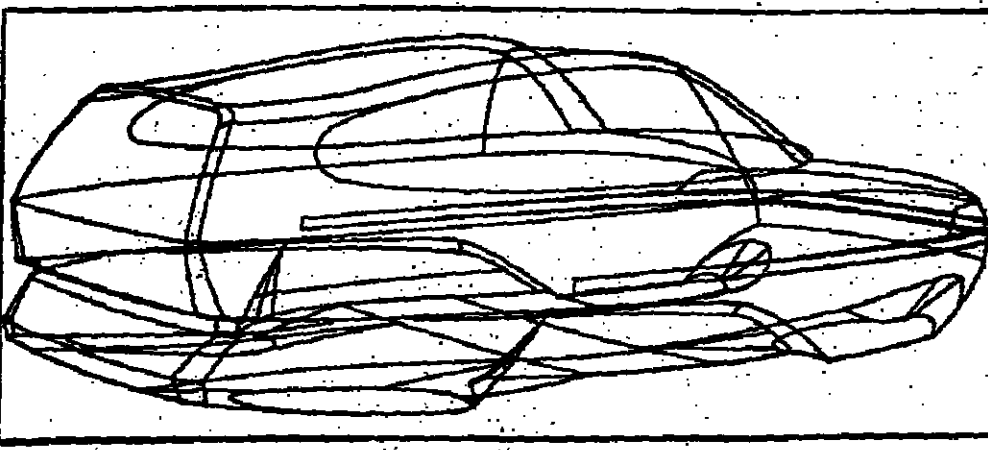
However, Milton Keynes may not be Britain's only new institute of information technology. Another vice-chancellor prepared to be as adventurous as Chilver is Professor John Ashworth, of Salford University, who plans the same in Manchester.

Professor Ashworth, who has attracted industry funding to the university, has created more than half a dozen visiting professorships.

That marriage of academia and industry is fundamental to the success of the new institute at Milton Keynes and any which may be created in Salford. A recent National Economic Development Council report on the problem facing the British says it all.

It concludes: "In Germany, employers bear 80 per cent of the cost of apprentice training. In Japan, the bulk of university and junior college students are in private education."

"In the United States a substantial amount of initial vocational educational expenditure falls on state high school and community college budgets, but in 1981 more than 11 million workers participated in education and training sponsored or provided by their employers."



Auto engineering: modern software allows quick innovative car designs, such as this Citroen Eole prototype

The fastest-growing and most rapidly changing use of computers in manufacturing industry is for designing products and for controlling the production process.

CAD/CAM/CAE (computer aided design, manufacturing and engineering) is revolutionizing industrial practices in a way undreamt of a decade ago. To some it is as important a step as the invention of the motor car - opening up new vistas of freedom from traditional, time-consuming methods, and allowing the creative process to transcend the drudgery of repetitive physical operations.

The new systems have rendered the drawing office equipped with banks of draughtsmen using rulers, pens and pencils and vast sheets of paper, obsolete overnight. Today's designers call up stock measurements and parts from a computer memory and create

Design at the touch of a button

new products with a light pen on a screen.

Powerful software allows the resulting two-dimensional "drawing" to be turned into a 3D model on the screen which can be twisted and turned, and even subjected to expected stresses and strains.

The systems do not stop at individual products - whole factories can be designed using CAD/CAM techniques.

McDonnell Douglas, the US aerospace corporation and a pioneer of CAD/CAM, has developed through its new information systems group a system called PLACE which enables an entire production cell to be created by computer simulation.

The screen shows robots, machine tools, assembly conveyor belts and so on, all of which are manoeuvrable

around the factory floor. The robots can then be programmed to perform the allotted tasks, and the whole concoction can be viewed from every angle.

This is the type of highly sophisticated CAD/CAM system that clearly is going to be in increasing demand throughout Europe as the growth of computer-integrated manufacture, still in its infancy, accelerates in competitive industries such as motors.

CAD began to take off in Europe only five or six years ago, but has been growing at a phenomenal rate. According to the London market research company Frost & Sullivan, European revenues from CAD were \$100 million in 1979, but by 1983 totalled \$750 million. This year's figure is estimated at \$1,225 million, rising to \$2,300 million by 1987, indicating a



growth rate twice that for computers themselves. Frost & Sullivan says that the largest user of CAD is the mechanical and electrical engineering sector, with expected purchases of \$635 million this year in Europe, followed by electronic printed circuit board design and integrated circuits.

In the UK, according to some estimates, just 4 per cent of the CAD market has been satisfied.

As part of its government programme, the Department of Trade and Industry has put considerable effort and expense into promoting CAD/CAM in the past three years. It claims success particularly in making industry more aware of what CAD/CAM can do and its advantages to businesses.

The DTI's main thrust has now changed in emphasis from the specific to the all-embrac-

ing. Advanced Manufacturing Technology (AMT) is now the key to the future: it incorporates not only CAD/CAM/CAE but also advanced robotics and whole-factory computerisation and automation. Thus, the original aim of making businessmen aware of the new technology has shifted into a broader policy of encouraging companies to develop a whole new manufacturing strategy.

The commitment of the Government to the computer revolution in manufacturing is demonstrated by the numerous schemes and, not least, the money devoted in the past to making industrial managers aware of how quickly their world is changing.

Excluding capital aid, the DTI has devoted £16 million to its various CAD/CAM and associated schemes.

Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

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Word power: a growth area for business

A new organization to promote the commercial potential of information technology will hold its first general assembly today. The Confederation of Information Communication Industries (CICI) was set up to promote and co-ordinate the activities of the information providers - the film, television, library, training and computer worlds.

In addition to making these sectors more aware of their commercial possibilities, the CICI will lobby the Government to ensure that the industry gets the right laws passed to help it grow.

The CICI grew from ideas canvassed in a report published in the autumn of 1983 by the Cabinet Office's Information Technology Advisory Panel (ITAP), which outlined the commercial potential of data. The report, entitled *Making a Business of Information*, had concluded: "Both private and public sectors in the UK need to pay much more attention to information as a commercial commodity."

The ITAP researchers asked for political and financial support from the Government to assist in the co-ordination of the British information industry. The study had claimed that in one form or another (software, video, data tapes) the industry was contributing more than £2,500 million a year to the balance of payments. They argue that it was important for Britain to exploit this area.

An act born out of frustration

The ITAP advisers were also aware that complex legislation in copyright and royalty protection would be needed if the industry were to survive. That required that a lobby group of experts be formed to ensure that the law-makers were properly briefed. So the CICI was formed.

It was also an act prompted by frustration. ITAP had asked for government support and got virtually none. Some of the ITAP group decided to form the federation themselves or risk its not being created at all. The chairman of CICI is Charles Reed, a prominent member of the ITAP committee and the first information technology director to be appointed at the Post Office - and one of the first in British industry.

The Government's response did, however, underline the commercial potential of information, particularly that information on data banks accessed by millions of subscribers through computer terminals many miles from the site of the computers.

That blueprint excites those in the library world and those in the attention of the proprietors of quality newspapers who are realizing that databases compiled from articles printed in their newspapers could be a valuable secondary source of income.

A database from news sources

The Government response to itap at least recognized the potential. It said: "The communications sector is estimated to have an annual turnover of £15 billion; the market for the financial information is still growing at more than 20 per cent per year; and a recent US estimate put the world market for databases at \$13 billion, of which 80 per cent was in the US. There are estimated to be about 1,900 on-line databases available worldwide from 270 providers, and involving over 900 database producers."

Not long after the Government's answer, the CICI began to take shape. About 25 companies form the backbone of the confederation, which has a first-year budget of £25,000. The Independent Television Companies Association (ITCA), the BBC, the British Publishers Association and the British Library are among the founders.

But national newspapers could be the principal beneficiaries of a developed information industry in Britain. The development of the World Reporter computer database on Thorn-EMI's Datasolve computers illustrates the potential. Contained on the database are extracts from reports in *The Guardian*, *The Economist*, the BBC World Service news bulletins, *The Washington Post* and now the *Financial Times*.

Databases of the future will contain pictures, sound, film and any product which can be represented in digital computer language. They will also be the new libraries of the next century.

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No.	Company	Year gain or loss
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2	Eden (B&R) Const	
3	Northumbria	
4	Blue Circle	
5	Northumbria (H&F)	
6	London & North	
7	Wimpey (George)	
8	London VJ	
9	Ward	
10	Calford	
11	DRAPERY AND STORES	
12	Freemans	
13	Elara	
14	Home Charm	
15	MFI	
16	Mullers Leisure	
17	Lee Cooper	
18	Superdry Store	
19	Reed (Austin)	
20	Worms & Gallow	
21	Stanley (AG)	
22	ELECTRICALS	
23	Memec	
24	CASE	
25	Atlantic Comp	
26	Gray Elect	
27	Resource Tech	
28	Micro ES	
29	Thorn EMI	
30	Orion Instruments	
31	Electronics	
32	PGES	
33	Bayan	
34	T. J. & Sons	
35	Norden & Pearce	
36	Island Frozen	
37	Alcan Dairies	
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Dividend
Yield %

Share price
Dividend
Yield %

Share price
Dividend
Yield %

Share price
Dividend
Yield %

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Gross Div	P/E
£1,000,000	Eden (B&R) Const	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Northumbria	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Blue Circle	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Northumbria (H&F)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	London & North	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Wimpey (George)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	London VJ	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Ward	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Calford	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Freemans	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Elara	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Home Charm	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	MFI	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Mullers Leisure	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Lee Cooper	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Superdry Store	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Reed (Austin)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Worms & Gallow	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Stanley (AG)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1

BUILDING AND ROADS

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Gross Div	P/E
£1,000,000	Eden (B&R) Const	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Northumbria	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Blue Circle	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Northumbria (H&F)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	London & North	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
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£1,000,000	Ward	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Calford	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Freemans	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Elara	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Home Charm	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	MFI	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Mullers Leisure	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Lee Cooper	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Superdry Store	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Reed (Austin)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Worms & Gallow	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Stanley (AG)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Gross Div	P/E
£1,000,000	Eden (B&R) Const	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Northumbria	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Blue Circle	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Northumbria (H&F)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
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£1,000,000	Home Charm	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	MFI	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Mullers Leisure	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Lee Cooper	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Superdry Store	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Reed (Austin)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Worms & Gallow	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Stanley (AG)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1

CINEMAS AND TV

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Gross Div	P/E
£1,000,000	Eden (B&R) Const	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Northumbria	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Blue Circle	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Northumbria (H&F)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	London & North	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Wimpey (George)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
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£1,000,000	Home Charm	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	MFI	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Mullers Leisure	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Lee Cooper	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Superdry Store	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Reed (Austin)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Worms & Gallow	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Stanley (AG)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1

DRAPERY AND STORES

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Gross Div	P/E
£1,000,000	Eden (B&R) Const	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Northumbria	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Blue Circle	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Northumbria (H&F)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	London & North	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Wimpey (George)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	London VJ	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
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£1,000,000	Calford	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Freemans	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Elara	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Home Charm	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	MFI	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Mullers Leisure	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Lee Cooper	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Superdry Store	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Reed (Austin)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Worms & Gallow	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Stanley (AG)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1

BREWERIES

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Gross Div	P/E
£1,000,000	Eden (B&R) Const	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Northumbria	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Blue Circle	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
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£1,000,000	Home Charm	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	MFI	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Mullers Leisure	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Lee Cooper	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
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£1,000,000	Reed (Austin)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Worms & Gallow	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1
£1,000,000	Stanley (AG)	12.1	0.1	1.1	11.1

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

6.4	8.9	68.2m	Do T's	48	-1
		12.5m	Stanley (H&F)	75	+3
		14.3m	Samfords	52	+4
6.0	11.5	1,300,000	Samfords Clothes	52	+5
4.7	10.2	139.4m	Superdrug Stores	398	+5
5.0	28.4	1,300,000	Text-Consultants	33	+5
3.5	12.9	15.0m	Time Products	27	-1
4.2	18.4	141.0m	Vancouver Vyeke	189	-5
		4,802,000	WVI Group	233	-2
		161.7m	Wend well	153	+3
		23.9m	Waring & Gilow	153	+7
			Waring & Henry	110	-3

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Reshaping the wedge between costs and pay

Since tax changes are only part of the Government's "supply-side" attack on unemployment, and since most of the tax changes are yet to be revealed in full green budget, the Budget marks the beginning, and not the end, of a highly important political debate.

The Government is attempting to tackle both the degree of wage pressure which it sees as inimical to employment, and those elements in our tax and social security system that encourage high registered unemployment. Now these objectives can easily become inconsistent, and frequently do so in Ministers' speeches. For while a rise in "real wages" (that is, wages relative to prices) is characterized as the destroyer of jobs, it also increases those work incentives of which we have also heard so much from government lips. Since social security benefits are only increased in line with prices, the faster real wages rise the bigger the gap between incomes in and out of work.

The key to consistency, and to much else, is the difference in wages as seen by employer and employee. This difference between labour costs and pay-in-your-pocket is a wedge consisting of income tax and National Insurance plus less easily quantifiable costs ranging from fringe benefits to employment protection laws.

There is a distinct similarity between what the Government is trying to do to wages in general and the changes it is making in the shape of that wedge between labour costs and take-home earnings. It has forsworn incomes policy to check the overall rise in pay; instead it is inching towards abolition of the floor under wages created by wages councils. Backbench and City pressures have robbed it of the nerve to make much reduction in the overall size of the tax wedge; so it is attempting to reshape it to encourage more low-paid employment.

Since pressure groups for the higher paid are fighting a rear-guard action, it must be pointed out that the restructuring of national insurance serves to correct a distortion rather than create a new one. Under the system which will survive until October, the width of the labour cost wedge (as measured by the income tax and national insurance rate, including employers' contributions) widens to a painful 49.45 per cent on the marginal pound earned by a single person above a mere £42 a week; it bizarrely narrows on earnings between £265 and £469 a week before rising again above 50 per cent on higher earnings.

The new system smoothes out the progression; the wedge starts with a width of 10 per cent of earnings, widening to 49.45 per cent at £130 a week, then dipping slightly before rising to 70.45 per cent on earnings over £773 a week.

The abolition of the upper limit on employers, together with lower initial rates, amount to a fairly frank admission that national insurance is simply a tax levied on workers and their employers, and has little to do with the "earning" of social benefits. It therefore points straight towards fusion with income tax, one option the green paper will "consider". But there is an objection, beyond the supposedly contributory nature of national insurance, which apparently weighs with the Chancellor.

This has to do with the different nature of the income bands in the two systems. Within income tax, the dividing lines are thresholds - only income above the line attracts higher tax. Within national insurance, crossing the line triggers a higher rate of tax on all earnings, those below it as well. This means that raising income tax thresholds benefits all income earners, and indeed gives most cash benefit to the highest paid, while raising insurance thresholds benefits only those who fall below the new trigger line. It is thus a far more cost-effective way of reducing the labour cost wedge for the lower paid.

But the National Insurance trigger system has compensating disadvantages. It distorts the wage distribution by creating sharp marginal tax rates at the point of change between one band and another. And there are further reasons for moving towards complete fusion of tax, National Insurance and social security. Notably, it could enable the Government to free up labour markets by abolishing wages councils with a completely clear social conscience.

The aim of abolishing wages councils is perfectly simple: to permit the employment of more people, particularly untrained young people at lower rates of pay. The fear of those 2.7 million people presently covered by wages councils is simple: that their pay would be shunted down to lower levels. These are precisely the people who will have been helped, and with their employers, by the National Insurance changes, since all the main wages council rates are under £90 a week; but reducing the difference between what employers are prepared to pay and what employees are allowed by the state to keep in their pockets is not a total defence against sweated labour.

However, there is - or should be - a far better defence than a limitation on what employers are allowed to offer their workers. The state should take responsibility for income support through social security, not wage regulation.

The minimum acceptable level of income depends on family circumstances, responsibilities, health. It is quite different for an 18-year-old living with parents and for a middle-aged woman supporting a sick husband and three children; yet both "adults" are supposedly protected by the same wage council pay scale. This inevitably means that minimum pay is set at levels which either leave the latter struggling in poverty, or which make some of the former unemployed.

If minimum incomes are fixed by social security, they can take account of factors which are not the business of employers. Assuming they are - for different groups at levels society regards as fair (a large question, of course, in itself) - then the "why work syndrome" becomes transformed into its proper purpose: a defence against exploitation.

But this role is not sensibly carried out by a social security system which offers no real choice between sitting on the dole and working full time. If it does, the minimum income guarantee will be fixed at a level which removes the incentive to apply for many of the jobs that are appearing in the labour market, and will therefore be transformed into a work disincentive.

This means both that benefits should be fixed at levels which do provide an incentive to find some work, and that they should not be withdrawn sharply for modest earnings. This in turn, necessitates the fusion of supplementary benefit and the family income supplement paid presently to people in work; and the removal of these two from the system of social security offices, to which recipients have to make special application, to the automatic, stigma free tax system.

These changes, in turn, would dovetail with the Chancellor's thoroughly welcome plans for a "single transferable tax allowance" for married people, which will widen the connections of the tax system with all those married women previously treated as non-persons.

All these changes can be made to increase labour market efficiency without creating social insecurity provided they are linked together. This, however, requires more strategic presentation than the Government has so far provided; and depressingly suggests reform can only proceed at the pace of the slowest element.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

IMF cuts off Argentine aid as austerity package fails

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The International Monetary Fund has cut off all aid to Argentina in a decision which has put strong pressure on its new democratic government and reignited concerns over the Latin American debt issue.

IMF officials took the decision after meeting an official delegation from Argentina, which has failed to comply with an economic austerity programme negotiated about three months ago, banking sources said. Inflation in Argentina is running at an annual rate of 800 per cent.

The decision to suspend payments to Argentina is similar action last month against Brazil, is expected to lead to new demands from the "Caribbean group" of Latin American nations for help from Western governments and banks in resolving their continuing debt problems, diplomatic officials said.

Smaller Latin American nations, which have been unable to get new loans from

Western banks, are pressing Argentina and Brazil to take a strong line at the joint meeting next month of the IMF and the World Bank.

Special meetings on the debt issue are being held for the first time in conjunction with the IMF's interim committee meeting and the World Bank's development committee meeting at the urging of Latin American nations which met in Cartagena, Colombia, last year.

The first official acknowledgment of the loan cut off to Argentina, which owes more than \$45 billion (£38 billion) was a terse statement issued in New York late on Friday.

The statement said the first two conditional disbursements from the IMF would be delayed while talks continued on ways to put the Argentine economy on the right track.

The decision was a blow to President Raul Alfonsín's agreement, which was nearing completion, of a \$4.2 billion loan from commercial banks which

had hoped to disperse the funds within weeks. Banks will not, however, make loans to debtor nations not in compliance with the IMF.

Earlier, on his official visit to Washington, President Alfonsín reportedly sought a bridging loan from the United States but turned down, according to diplomatic sources.

Argentina is at present \$800 million in arrears on interest payments despite a big payment to banks made on New Year's Eve. It has not made an interest payment since then but faces a new deadline of May 4.

The IMF, in keeping with its policy, has not commented properly on the Argentine decision but international bankers said the fund is determined to demonstrate to debtor nations that it will not ignore their non-compliance.

Brazil, which also fell rapidly out of compliance, is in a stronger position than Argentina because of a surge in

exports over the last two years which has provided foreign exchange to pay interest on its debt of close to \$100 billion.

The fear in diplomatic circles is that the IMF decision will lead to a new or radical line among debtor nations. But last month, the new Argentine economics minister, Señor Juan Sourrouille, told his country it will have to accept even more economic sacrifices than those envisaged under the IMF plan last December.

Mexico will receive a \$165 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank under contract signed in Vienna. The loan is for 20 years and repayable in instalments at interest rates linked to the bank's costs of raising the money.

The bank said the economy of Latin America still showed severe strain and badly needed investment to boost growth, despite signs of recovery last year.

US NOTEBOOK

Fear grips the bond market

The financial markets are very worried, even frightened. This unease is reflected above all in the American bond market, the very core and centre of the world financial system.

Last week, we received news that would normally have great encouraged holders of bonds:

● The first quarter real gross national product figure came in at about 2 per cent, well below the consensus forecast.

● There was a misleading figure of 5.4 per cent for the implicit price deflator and that might have been expected to throw the bond markets off. But Commerce Department economists said we should take no notice of that and concentrate instead on the fixed-weight index which showed no acceleration in inflation during the first quarter this year.

● The continuing débâcle in Ohio should have prompted a rush into bonds or T-bills. Instead, investors rushed into gold, silver, platinum, palladium and even copper.

● A rise of 0.3 per cent in the consumer price index in February was very modest.

None of this helped the bonds. By Friday late, the Treasury cash bill futures had been down to 95½, almost exactly where it was a week earlier.

At the same time, the June 1-bond futures contract was down to 68½, also about where it was a week earlier.

By contrast, April gold futures, which were down at 295.20 on March 15, had risen sharply to 316.80 by last Friday - a rise of nearly 7½ per cent in a week. May silver which had been 5.75 on March 15 was 6.37 last Friday - up nearly 11 per cent in a week. April platinum had been 248.50 on March 15 and was 265.90 last Friday, a jump of 7 per cent in the week.

This was a week in which American investors rushed away from the banks, into precious metals, leaving bonds on the sidelines, not because of fear of inflation but because this financial system is very shaky and the bond market is telling us so every day.

Maxwell Newton

Exporters to lose travel grant

By John Lawless

Seasoned exporters will learn today that they are to lose the half-price air tickets which have been receiving at the taxpayers' expense.

That is one of the effects of cuts in government spending on export promotions to be confirmed when the British Overseas Trade Board presents its annual report.

Having had representations from almost 100 trade associations and chambers of commerce, the board may be prepared to change the way in which it directs its expenditure. But there is no doubt that its £27 million budget is to be rigidly held in the next three years.

There will be no change in the board's commitment to provide most help for new exporters, especially with travel subsidies for overseas exhibitions and trade missions.

Of almost 7,400 companies which received grants for travel and buying space at second time.

The board is expected to raise its charges for stand rentals for "regulars" from 55 to 75 per cent of the total costs, to cut up to a tenth of the exhibitions it has supported in the past and to do away completely with travel grants for those exhibiting for a third time or more.

A similar percentage cut in trade missions, of which there are about 160 a year, is likely. The boards travel subsidies are supposed to be worth only 45 per cent of overseas air fares. But they can be made to go much further towards the exporters' total travel costs because of the skillful way in which mission organizers negotiate packages with airlines and hotels.

Lloyds discount

Lloyds Bank is offering an 0.5 per cent discount until June 28 to new home loan borrowers applying to endowment as well as repayment loans. The bank's present rate is 13.25 per cent.

Al-Fayed brothers to sue for libel

By Our Financial Correspondent

The Egyptian Al-Fayed brothers, whose £615 million offer for House of Fraser was formally recommended by the stores group to its shareholders at the weekend, have initiated a High Court libel action against *The Observer*.

Messrs Mohamed, Ali and Salah Al-Fayed are seeking an injunction to stop the repetition of alleged libel in the March 10 issue of the newspaper. They are also seeking damages.

The company which owns *The Observer* is Lounro, headed by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, which last November sold its 29.9 per cent stake in House of Fraser to the Al-Fayed brothers for £138 million. House of Fraser's most famous asset is Harrods.

In its offer document recommending the 400p a share offer, House of Fraser estimates that pre-tax profits for the year to January 26 were approximately £48 million, or 18p a share. House of Fraser made £38.8 million pre-tax in 1984.

House of Fraser shareholders who do not want the cash have the choice - which they must exercise by May 3 - of taking loan notes guaranteed by the Swiss Banking Corporation.



Mohamed Al-Fayed: offer is formally recommended.

The offer for the 47 per cent of Fraser which the Al-Fayed brothers do not already own is being made by Al-Fayed Investment and Trust (UK), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Al-Fayed Investment and Trust SA, a Liechtenstein company.

AIT SA is a private company with issued share capital of 10 bearer shares of \$100,000 each, all held by the brothers. AIT SA is funded by loans from the brothers and bank borrowings. Its only significant assets are shares in and loans to AIT.

Kleinwort Benson says it is satisfied that AIT has available the necessary financial resources to implement the offers in full.

Comex gold traders suspended

From Michael Graham New York

A New York Commodity Exchange member firm was put in receivership last week after the soaring price of gold on Tuesday left three traders with unprotected short positions in gold options.

The Volume Investors Corporation, the firm responsible for handling the trade, was suspended by the Comex and the receiver was appointed by a federal court at the request of the Commodities and Futures Trading Commission.

The three traders, Mr Gerald Westheimer, his wife, Valerie, and Mr James Paruch, had their membership privileges suspended for five days by the exchange pending a hearing.

Details of exactly how the traders lost out were not available but they were betting on the price of gold falling and so they kept selling. As the price shot up by almost \$36 an ounce in one of the largest one-day surges on record, they were unable to raise enough cash to cover their positions.

The Volume Investors Corporation receiver immediately filed a suit in a New York court to recover at least

ABRIDGED PARTICULARS

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital of Shorrock plc, issued and to be issued, to be admitted to the Official List.

SHORROCK plc

(Registered in England and Wales—No 1707967)

Offer for Sale

by

Lloyds Bank International Limited

of 6,531,000 ordinary shares of 10p each at a price of 100p per share payable in full on application.

The application list for the ordinary shares in Shorrock plc now being offered for sale will be open at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 28th March, 1985 and may be closed at any time thereafter.

Share Capital

Authorised	Issued and to be issued fully paid
£5,321,429	£2,400,000

The ordinary shares now being offered for sale rank in full for all dividends hereafter declared, made or paid on the ordinary shares in the Company.

Shorrock, established in 1962, designs, manufactures, installs and maintains electronic systems and equipment for security applications. The systems are individually designed to meet the specific requirements of the customer for the detection of intruders or fires. Customers include governmental and defence establishments, major private and public enterprises, small businesses and private households.

For the year ended 31st December, 1984 the Company reported turnover of £12.9 million and profit before exceptional NATO costs and before taxation of £1.6 million. At the Offer for Sale price of 100p per share the Company is capitalised at £24 million.

Copies of the Offer for Sale document, which comprises listing particulars with regard to the Company given in compliance with The Stock Exchange (Listing) Regulations 1984, and of separate Application Forms may be obtained at:

The Company	Lloyds Bank International Limited	Grieverson, Grant and Co.
Shadsworth Road, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 2PR	40-66 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4EL	Leith House, 45-57 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7EH
and at the following offices of Lloyds Bank Plc:		
Old Bank, 1 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 1TD	125 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3AD	Church Street, Blackburn BB2 1JQ
3 Sidney Street, Cambridge CB2 3HQ	27 High Street, Cardiff CF1 1QZ	113/115 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4TF
147 High Street, Guildford GU1 3AG	67 Park Row, Leeds LS1 1NX	53 King Street, Manchester M60 2ES
Old Market Square, Nottingham NG1 6FD	38 Blue Boar Row, Salisbury SP1 1DB	19/21 High Street, Southampton SO9 7AN
		55 Corn Street, Bristol BS99 7LE
		234 High Street, Exeter EX4 3NL
		102 Grey Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE99 1SM
		82 Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RP

In addition, copies of the Offer for Sale document will be available at The Stock Exchange, Company Announcements Office, London EC2N 1MA.

The Offer for Sale document will be published in full, together with an Application Form, in the Financial Times and the Daily Telegraph on Monday 25th March, 1985.

SE reform fight takes to the road

By Jeremy Warner

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, is planning a whistle-stop tour of Britain in May to try to persuade regional stockbroking firms to back reform. The radical plans for reform, the tour will take in all regional centres where there is a reasonable scattering of firms.

There is growing opposition from smaller firms and associates of members of the market to proposals outlined in a Stock Exchange white paper published last week and Sir Nicholas will have to bring about a reasonable scattering of firms.

One associate, whose view is considered representative, said: "The proposals are most unsatisfactory. They are designed for the benefit of those selling for the firms to outsiders and provide king's ransom and provide satisfaction for those who will be driven out of business by all these changes."

The Stock Exchange Council intends to push ahead with a change in the rules to allow outsiders to increase their shareholding in stock market firms from the present maximum allowed of 29.9 per cent to 100 per cent, even if its wider proposals for change are rejected at a meeting on June 4.

Espley to sell off £11m assets

By Derek Harris Commercial Editor

Espley Trust, the troubled property company, is about to sell off most of the rest of its assets, including two British trading companies which employ about 1,500 people. Espley's board has agreed the sales, which are worth more than £11.6 million, and early completion on the deals is expected, a company statement said.

Sales of Espley assets have already brought in nearly £50 million since Espley ran into problems and its shares were suspended.

The balance of Espley's North American interests is being sold off and so are properties at Swindon and Wakefield. Included in the deals are the two British trading companies, Espley Tyas Co. and Espley Tyas Co. Ltd. The deals should mean the Tyas problem will be resolved. The future of the two trading companies and the jobs involved would also be secured, according to Mr Gary Wakeham, Espley Trust's chief executive.

Once the deals are confirmed the next step will be discussions on the future of Espley Trust, which is still left with a few remaining assets.

MARKET SUMMARY

CURRENCIES

Friday's close and change on week
London:
£ \$1.7110 (+0.0875)
DM \$3.7899 (+0.0268)
Sfr \$1.7740 (+0.0869)
FFr \$11.5837 (+0.3987)
Yen 299.31 (+17.26)
Index: 75.5 (8.5)
New York:
£ \$1.7445
DM \$3.2200

INTEREST RATES

London:
Bank Base: 13½%
3-month Interbank 13½-13¾%
3-month eligible bills buying rate 12½-12¾%
US:
Prime Rate 10.50%
Federal Funds 8¼%
3-month Treasury Bills 9.52-9.48%
Long bond 95¼-95½%

GOLD

London fixing:
am \$320.75pm \$315.50
close \$315-\$316 (2288.50-2289.50)
New York:
Comex \$316.50

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: Arvil Petroleum, Baltic, Galileo, Murray Electronics, TSW Television South West. Final: Clyde Petroleum, Exco International, Freemans, Hall Engineering, Hickson International, Lorin Electronics.
TOMORROW - Interim: Petroleum Amalgams Products, C H Besser Holdings, A Bell & Sons, Burgess Product Holdings, City of Aberdeen Land Association, Manson Finance Trust, Minerals & Resources Corp, Murray Ventures, Precious Metals Trust, Pressac Holdings, Ricardo

Consulting Engineers. Final: American Trust, Barmore Corp, Bank Chemicals International, British Aerospace, W Canning, Croda International, Delta Group, Dufay Blumastic, East Rand Consolidated, Enterprise Oil, Equity & Law, HB Electronics, Home Charge Systems, Iceland Frozen Food Holdings, IML, Johnson Food Cleaners, Rackitt and Colman, Smith & Nephew Associated, Standard Chartered, Trade Indemnity.

WEDNESDAY - Interim: B. Bailey Construction, Blue Bird Confectionery, Bryant Holdings, Burton Group, Charterhall, Frogmore Estates. Final: Associated Book Publishers, Babcock International, BAT, Biomechanics International, Britannia Arrow Holdings, Britannic Assurance, Capetown International, R. Cartwright Holdings, Coats Patons, DRG, C. Gee, Gibbs & Dandy, Jantar, Metal Closures Group, Monument Oil & Gas, Ocean Transport & Trading, Prudential Corp, Rotork, Scarsdale Oil & Gas, Supra Group, Tharsis, VG Instruments.

THURSDAY - Interim: Attwoods, J. Hainwood Group, Lucas Industries, LWT Holdings, C. H. Pearce & Sons, Staffordshire Pottery, Stans, Amari, Bridon, Charterhouse Petroleum, Friedland Doggart, Grampian Holdings, John I. Jacobs, Koda International, Ledbrooke Group, Lagal & General Group, Linread, Manders Holdings, E. Matthews, T. Robinson & Son, Sikolene Lubricants, Superdrug Stores, Tricontrol, United Newsprint, Vadic Stone Group, Worth Holdings.
FRIDAY - Interim: Bermuda International Bond Fund. Final: Amfibre Holdings, Brendon & Cloud Hill Lime Works, Early's of Witney, Home Counties Newspapers Holdings, Istock Johnson, Scottish Heritage Trust.

ORDINARY SHARES

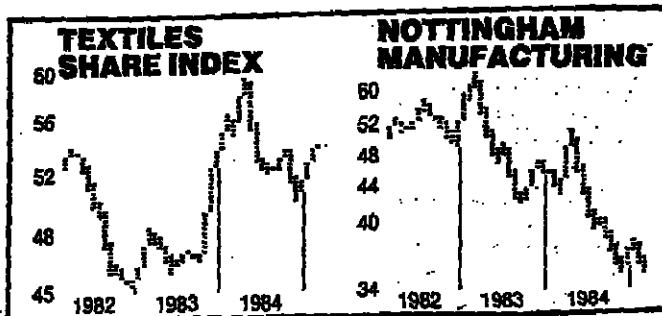
Budget lift for hard-pressed textiles and clothing sector

The calamitous results from SR Gent last Wednesday put an immediate damper on the textile sector's post-Budget euphoria. The gent figures were a sharp reminder that the annual declaration from Marks and Spencer is almost upon us, and that may carry a renewed health warning for the shares of the store's group's suppliers, of whom Gent is the most spectacularly beleaguered example.

None the less, the Budget has given a shot in the arm to textile shares, which have been quietly improving relative to the rest of the stock market since the turn of the year.

The most important of the Chancellor's measures, as far as this hard-pressed sector was concerned, was the National Insurance concession of up to £3 a week for every worker earning less than £2,860 a year. This is the amount by which the employers' contribution will be reduced under the new rules which will take effect in October.

There are at present 500,000 workers in the textile and clothing industry, paid an average of £5,000 a year. Averages are deceptive, though: it is worth remembering that there are always more people below the average than above it, and in this case the pyramid widens out quite dramatically. The change could mean as



much as £50 million for the industry in a full year.

For some companies, such as John Beales, that could add a straight 12 per cent to pretax profits. For others, it could mean the difference between corporate life and death in a trade where job losses were previously expected to reach 150,000 in the next seven years. How far that forecast will be confounded will depend on several other factors.

Among them is the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, which limits cheap imports from the Third World into the West. This is due for renegotiation next year.

In such an international business, exchange rates are also of vital importance. Britain exports £3 billion of clothing and textiles each year, and a growing slice of that has been going to the US.

The outcome of the present tug-of-war between the pound

and the dollar could be far more influential than the Chancellor's gift.

In such a volatile and frankly unpredictable situation, it is important to be highly selective about buying or selling textile shares. Gent should be avoided until it becomes clear that the board has a convincing recovery strategy, which should involve some diversification away from its dependence on Marks and Spencer.

Nottingham Manufacturing has been losing ground to the rest of the market in an almost uninterrupted three-year slide. But the shares at 220p have come from a 1984-85 low of 186p and appear to have moved from the "sell" to the "hold" category.

After a fall in profits from £24.6 million to £21.5 million last year, they should manage a modest improvement this year. They are worth buying on any relapse below 200p, where the

prospective yield would be a useful 5 per cent.

Good support is developing for one of the sector's blue-chips, Courtallids, although this is partly due to reports that Hanson Trust is compiling a stake. But Sir Christopher Hogg's cost-cutting chairman-ship should produce another profits increase, from £117 million to £125 million, in the year ending this month.

The City faithful expect that trend to continue next year with a gain to about £135 million, but Mr Chris Burbridge of Phillips & Drew is pessimistic about the prospects for the group overseas and fears a downturn to £120 million.

Among the smaller companies, Sirdar pleased the market with its latest interim results and de Zoete and Bevan is going for a rise from £9 million to £10.25 million for the year to June. Despite a warm autumn the spring knitwear range is said to have been well received and the prospective price earnings ratio of 9.8 at 134p is not asking too much.

In the more specialized end of the business, there is strong support for Seaga Group, which makes felt for use in the paper industry. It is a high-technology company with a stake in the fast-growing US market.

William Kay
City Editor

The 1985 Budget carries hallmarks of Mr Lawson's daring, as well as good housekeeping. In particular, it marks an advance in the relationship between Government and markets, which may entail a return to orthodoxy in the funding programme.

The Government has ploughed ahead with the idea that by getting all the vital numbers down, like inflation, monetary growth and the public sector borrowing requirements, it will have set the scene - no more than that - for the real economy to grow.

Last year's Budget flirted with fuzzy numbers, like front-end loading, and was not a raging success. This year, the Government has emphasized heavily its commitment to financial orthodoxy. Monetary targets have been tightened. The PSBR of £7 billion looks attainable. The contingency reserves have been loaded up. This is back to getting the numbers right.

The daring bit comes over the currency calculation. The Government appears to have gambled correctly that the dollar was poised to weaken. Hence, by presenting an explicitly orthodox financial position, markets would immediately lurch onto the attractions of sterling.

So far, the gamble has worked. The dollar did weaken sharply last week, as concern over the Ohio savings banks grew, and GDP growth slowed. It is difficult for the Federal Reserve Board to tighten, since US manufacturing is now so disadvantaged relative to

TEMPUS

Gilts: Lawson's orthodoxy gamble pays off

imported goods. Gold bounded ahead last week, closing at \$315, up \$20.

Sterling soared, both against the dollar, and by the self-generated mechanisms in markets, against other currencies. Gilts have been very firm notwithstanding the collapse of the index-linked sector after the announcement that pension funds would not be taxed.

Thus, after one of the shortest Budget speeches on record, the Chancellor has bought himself, quite cheaply, a fair degree of freedom to manoeuvre.

The authorities, however, face additional policy problems. The bill mountain is still huge, and this is a convenient proxy for the scale of British credit demand in the last few years. The authorities' decision to push base rates up to 14 per cent was partly motivated by the need to smash underlying British demand for credit via the interest rate weapon.

Plainly, if the authorities immediately relax interest rates, in a bid to prevent sterling becoming heavily overvalued, and hence ruining all the Budget numbers, they risk reigniting British credit demand a second time around.

This line of reasoning appears to explain why the Bank of England took the relatively rare step last week, immediately after the Budget, of lending to the discount houses at the penal rate of 13 1/2 per cent.

But what if the dollar continues to weaken, and sterling rises rapidly? Anecdotal evidence from the authorities also has an answer to this problem - intervention across the exchanges.

Now, however, the Chancellor appears to be a convert to foreign exchange intervention at least when sterling is to be protected against the dollar.

It would also be consistent with what appears to be a changing relationship between the market and the authorities. The market has noted that day to restore confidence - and it worked. A policy of lending at rates which have not been determined by the market last week and bought the authorities some time. The market is convinced that the Bank of England is now poised to play a far more active and traditional

role in markets, which could quite easily involve exchange-rate intervention.

But exchange-rate intervention, when it happens, contains later round effects on monetary growth.

The authorities may well have prepared for this eventuality as well. Last week saw the creation of another long taplet, as the Government Broker announced a £500 million tranche of Conversion 9 1/2 per cent 2001, which was exhausted on Friday. This is the second time recently that the authorities have edged longer and also the second time that they have acted to make the long-dated segment of a convertible more liquid. Before the new taplet was announced, Conversion 9 1/2 per cent had just £2 million in issue.

The market, therefore, reckons that another reasonable option might be springing up at the long end. Intervention in foreign exchange markets obliges the authorities to sell stock quite quickly. Either they will sell long-dated stock, where demand exists, or they will sell convertibles.

Confirmation that something is afoot comes via the Chancellor's commitment in the Budget to activate the market for short-term corporate bonds. In the past, the authorities tried to open the long-dated market for corporate debt and avoid tapping the 21st century for this reason. Now however, they are trying to breathe life into a market for one to five-year debt, leaving the long end of the gilt-market free by implication for their own funding activities.

USM REVIEW

Laidlaw Thomson appeal could send shares racing ahead

Fixing a price for Laidlaw Thomson Group presented a few problems for Fielding, Newman, Smith and Co, the broker which is bringing the company to the Unlisted Securities Market.

For LTG does not slot neatly into any stock market category. In market terms it is unique and Fielding could achieve little guidance from the lists of quoted companies.

The company describes itself as the "architect's ironmonger". It embraces a suggestion of retailing, a great deal of wholesaling and, perhaps more glamorously, an inviting involvement with consultancy and design. In some respects, LTG has the type of appeal which could send the shares racing ahead when dealings start on Friday.

The broker settled for \$2p, pricing the company at \$4.4 million. On an actual 44.5 per cent tax charge the shares are offered at 11.4 times earnings. On a notional 35 per cent charge the p/e is 9.6. The dividend yield is 6.1 per cent. It is an undemanding rating.

Most of the cash being raised is being ploughed into the company. Some shareholders are selling. By far the biggest is County Bank, an early backer. It is unloading 277,184 shares (of the 408,960 coming from existing shareholders) and is retaining a 4.9 per cent holding. Although it dates back to 1876, when it started as suppliers of ironmongery, harness equipment and mill furnishings, LTG really got going in the late 1960s.

Mr David Whitworth, chairman, embarked on a programme of creating a national organization serving architects, often designing and assembling and making great play of its ability to offer a package deal.

Hitherto architectural ironmongery - door knobs, knockers, locks and so on - had been a fragmented business. Mr Whitworth's policy was to back individual ironmongers who would set up a local company, retaining a significant minority shareholding, to provide an extra incentive. Existing businesses have also been acquired.

The minority share stakes have, with one exception, been bought out.

Consequently the company already has a large number of executives as shareholders. It is estimated that after the placing 40 per cent of those on the group's payroll will have shares. Profits, a mere £20,000 when Mr Whitworth, aged 53, really got going in the late 1960s, have advanced from £176,000 in 1980 to £586,000 last year. There is no profit forecast for this year although trading has started well and the order book is about 15 per cent higher.

The Whitworth programme for national coverage is not

quite complete. The takeover announcement a USM presence provides could tempt the group to plug any gaps through acquisitions.

But LTG, which also has a security side, marketing entrance and exit controls, is also pushing ahead strongly overseas, particularly in the Middle and Far East.

Takeover thrills and spills have well and truly spread to the USM lists in recent weeks. Apart from the increased offer for Petrolex from Clyde Petroleum, which helped push Petrolex shares up 8p to 75p on Friday, market observers are wondering what is afoot at Promotions House.

Promotions usually makes the bids, having acquired control of Berkeley and Hay Hill Investments just over a year ago and last month offering shares for Bonusbond Holdings, a fully-listed company which is involved in employee incentive. But last week came news that Commercial Union Assurance has got a 10 per cent stake in Promotions, having had no declared holding previously.

Promotions shares reacted favourably to the news, though by the end of the week a lack of further development left them below their best. On Friday the price dipped 1p to 28p.

But USM watchers are keeping an eye on the company and its new shareholder. At the current market price, Promotions is worth around £5 million, a small bite for CU, which is struggling to achieve profitability currently.

Quite what CU has in mind for its stake in Promotions remains to be seen. But it is certainly an unusual step for the multi-million pound insurance group to take. Promotions is effectively controlled by Mr Alan Taylor, managing director, and Mr David Pearl, chairman.

Action also returned to Monument Oil & Gas, though the share price stays subdued, well below the level enjoyed four months ago when the company came to the USM. Bristol Oil & Minerals has sold its 11.4 per cent stake, and it looks as though the Kuwait Investment Office is the buyer.

The Kuwaitis have increased their holding by exactly that amount, and now have 29.4 per cent of Monument, less than one-half per cent away from triggering off a takeover offer. On Friday Monument shares were unchanged at 23p, back in December, when the company came to the USM as a spin-off from the break-up of Minister Assets, the shares traded at comfortably over 30p.

Derek Paine and Pam Spooner

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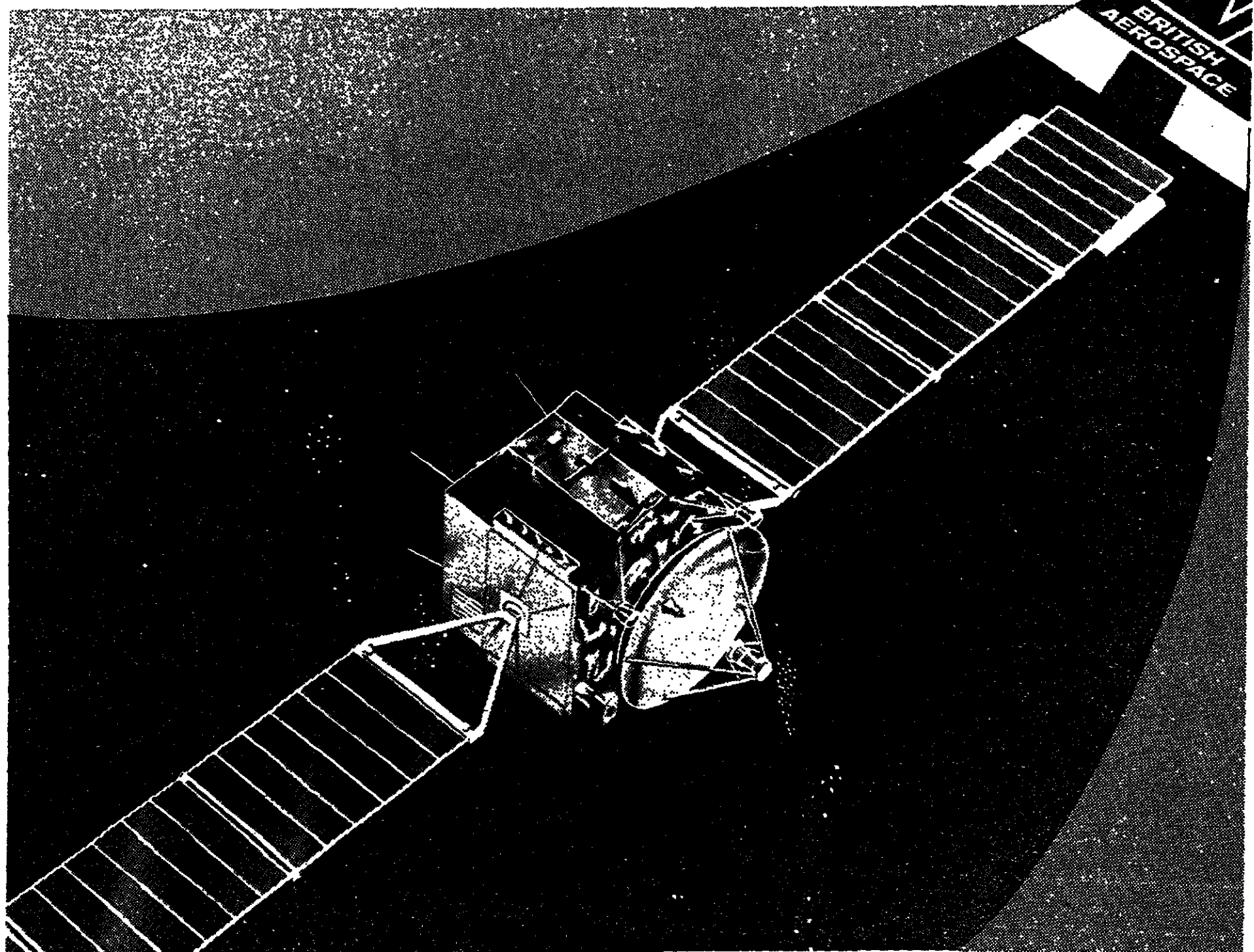
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Consolidated Cde	14%
Consolidated Trust	13 1/2%
C. Hoan & Co	13 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Net Westminster	14%
TSE	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%
Citibank NA	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of under £2,000, 10%: £2,000 up to £10,000, 11 1/2%: £10,000 up to £50,000, 12 1/2%: £50,000 and over, 12%.

COMPANY NEWS

● ARBUTHNOT GOVERNMENT SECURITIES TRUST: Half-year to Feb 28. Gross revenue £2.4 million (£2.04 million). Second interim 2.75p, making 5.5p (gross).
● ARBUTHNOT DOLLAR INCOME TRUST: Half-year to Dec 31. Gross revenue \$227,000 (\$314,000).
● WEST BROMWICH SPRING: Dividend on 11.5 per cent preference shares, due on March 31, not to be paid.
● HENDERSON GROUP: The purchase of Abru, a supplier of domestic ladders and other aluminium products, has been completed. The consideration was £618,000.
● BEATSON CLARK: Final 3.5p, making 6.6p (5p) for 1984. (Fig in £000). Turnover 32,100 (31,155). Pre-tax loss 434 (profit 1,222).

From Pat Butcher, Lisbon

Eyes on the ball: Martina Navratilova on her way to a 7-5, 7-6 semi-final victory over Hana Mandlikova in the Virginia Slims tennis championship in New York on Saturday

By Richard Eaton

[illegible]

By Gordon Allan

Harrington, aged 22, who has had no previous acting trials for England, bowled brightly for John Bell, last year's runner-up, in 3 of the semi-finals. As Bell came off the green he remarked: "I ought to have been in bed."

Later Harrington edged ahead 18-16, At 20-19 to Alcock. Harrington thought he had the two shots he needed, but a measure reduced it to one. On the last Alcock tucked the jack out of the hand of Harrington could not find a way to it.

CYCLING
CATALAN WRELS: First stage: 1, N Edmonds (Belg) 39:58min 45sec; 2, P Wirthen (Neth) at 1sec; 3, T de Rooy (Neth) at 28sec; 4, S Pineda (Spain) at 30sec; 5, J Pineda (Esp) 22hr 1min 28sec; 2, P Anderson (AUS) at 17sec; 3, F Yanez (Esp) at 1min 14sec.
STANDARD CATALAN: Total time, leading placings: 1, S Ricco (It) 39:51min 16sec; 2, M Mascardi (It), same time; 3, S Salvador (It) same time.

[illegible]

had the United States Festival of American Victory, otherwise known as the 1984 Olympic Games, President Reagan's personal Falken's factor, and now we have a risk taker to stage the Games, and to be the manager by the time of local considerations. At least in La does not drop it all up in cheer. That, at least, is a gritty way, is refreshing.

RUGBY LEAGUE

cott hangs on to put Wigan on Wembley road

By Keith Macklin

the desperate clutching fingers of the South and the surging piston of the giant. The South, however, came West, took Wigan to play again as they beat Hull City 1-0. Rovers 19-11 in an absorbing and gripping semi-final of the Silk Cup Challenge Cup.

SQUASH

TORONTO: Canadian Open: J. Kinn (GB) vs. P. Richardson (CAN) 12-15, 15-2, 2-15, 15-4, 15-14; T. Kinn (CAN) vs. J. Kinn (GB) 15-12, 15-14, 15-14; S. Bouchard (USA) vs. J. Nijckx (US) 15-10, 11-15, 15-14, 10-15, 15-10; M. Sedgwick (CAN) vs. J. Nijckx (US) 15-10, 15-10; N. Edwards (US) vs. S. Kinn (GB) 15-15, 15-15, 15-15; M. Deschamps (US) vs. B. Berra (CAN) 15-15, 15-15, 15-15; J. Kinn (GB) vs. C. Caldwell (CAN) vs. C. Kinn (US) 11-15, 15-15, 15-17, 7-15, 17-15; M. Tabont (US) vs. P. Berra (CAN) 15-15, 15-15, 15-15.

TELETYPE

and Wilson left 1-2-7.
 and Wilson came back and then came
 back to the house and Scott's
 Wigen breathed again. Wigen
 driving burst by West. A
 try. Stephenson rounded off
 a goal.

seeds went back to the top of the
 house. Lager championship table
 on the night of the 12th story over
 the hills. Town, who were
 not to be released by this

[illegible]

From John Ballantine, Las Vegas

Watson threatened to run away with it yesterday when he holed from 10 feet on the first green for a birdie, but he dropped a stroke at the third by pushing a simple iron approach into a bunker and hitting

By Nicholas Keith

Holmes, three times a winner, never got going and was soon three down at the turn to a 37 (three over par) after four times taking three holes. Dexter won the next three holes with straightforward pars, and Holmes's first success at the 13th came too late to salvage a lost cause.

At the 14th, Dexter might have suffered snow brought it to an untimely end, but he was not a comfortable winner, but in the early stages was let down by his unorthodox putting grip - left hand below right for the short ones - and missed several holes.

15th HOLE: Youngman by a Barret; 1. Holmes, 2 and 1; A. Holmes by D. Meacher, 3 and 2; E. Dexter by M. MacPhee, 4 and 3; M.

Oxford possesses the outstanding player in Wulstall, the American who undoubtedly ranks among the best golfers to appear in the match since the war, as he showed in his morning round of 69 against Wilson.

16th HOLE: Singles. Oxford first: M. Dutton by B. Wilson, 1 and 2; M. Dutton by J. Whitham, 2 and 5; G. Wulstall by D. Wilson, 1 and 2; K. Frazer lost to A. Beasley, 6 and 5; D. Wilson by J. Whitham, 1 and 2; D. Meacher, 6 and 5; M. MacPhee by J. Bushell, 1 and 2; D. Meacher by A. Sattellby, 1 and 5; S. Smith, 5 and 4; D. Meacher by J. Whitham, 1 and 2; D. Meacher, 2 and 1; C. White by D. Boothroyd, 6 and 5.

Singles: Oxford 8, Cambridge 2. Match: Oxford 10, Cambridge 2.

● **Paul Baxter**, the secretary and manager of the Sherwood Forest Club, will become deputy secretary of the English Golf Union from July 1.

Basseterre, St Kitts (Reuter) - A	A F Jackson c J J Crowe b Stirling	6
bar-wicket; partnership of 144	T A Hume c J J Crowe b Bracewell	69
between Kingstonie Lawrence and	C G Smith c J J Crowe b Stirling	20
Curry Munsie helped West Indies	R Harper c Stirling b Cairns	22
under-23 to a lead of 107 against	D Williams not out	12
New Zealanders on the second	G R Smith c Stirling b Cairns	12
day of their three-day match here.	T A Mermick c Rutherford b Stirling	8
Lawrence hit a determined 79,	C A Walsh not out	94
	Extras (ft 14, lb 12, w 5, nb 3)	34

Total (9 wickets) 278
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-9, 3-26, 4-170,
5-181, 6-245, 7-248, 8-255, 9-270.
BOWLING: Stringer 16-4-34, Charnfield 27-5-57,
52-1; Calms 18-4-39-2; Bracewell 25-5-59-2;
Sook 22-8-34-0.
Wides and no-balls debited to bowlers.

England lose, page 28

Trophies stolen

Cricket trophies won by Martyn Moxam, the Yorkshire and England batsman, have been stolen from his

FOOTBALL	ICE HOCKEY
FRENCH LEAGUE: Nantes 1, Sochaux 1; Mulon 1, Rouen 1; Monaco 3, Marseilles 0; St Germain 1, Metz 2; Bast 2, Tours 2; Nancy 1, Strasbourg 1; Toulouse 1, Lens 1.	NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL): Friday: Detroit Red Wings 5, New York Rangers 3; Buffalo Sabres 3, Pittsburgh Penguins 1; Washington Capitals 3, Montreal

2, Racing-Paris 1; Bordeaux 5, Aigue 1.
Leading standings: 1, Bordeaux 47pts, 2, Nantes 43; 3, Aigue 36.

1981 WORLD CUP: Asian Group 3 (in Bangkok);
Americas 3, Bangkok 0. Asian Group 2A (in
Guatemala): Syria 1, Kuwait 0.

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP: First round (in
Tunisia): AS Sagara (Gabon) 1, Tornado
Cannaries 1; Chicago Maple Leafs 3, Calgary
Flames 1; Toronto Maple Leafs 3, Edmonton
Oilers 3 (incl. Saturday Philadelphia Flyers 5,
New Jersey Devils 4). Quarterfinals: Los
Angeles Blades 2; Winnipeg Jets 4, Vancouver
Canucks 4; St Louis Blues 4, Minnesota North
Stars 2; Calgary Flames 4, Los Angeles Kings
3.

SADPORD: world junior Championships:

Adelaide 1	Penrith 0	Lalorha 3	Switzerland 2	Norway 1	Standings: 1
Adelaide 1	Penrith 0	Lalorha 3	Switzerland 4pts	2, Poland 4	3, Japan 2
Adelaide 1	Penrith 0	Lalorha 3	Group C (in Chamonix): France 8, Romania 3		
Adelaide 1	Penrith 0	Lalorha 3	Denmark 6	Bulgaria 1	Yugoslavia 8, North
Adelaide 1	Penrith 0	Lalorha 3	Korea 2	China 10	Spain 1. Final standings:
Adelaide 1	Penrith 0	Lalorha 3	France 13pts	2, Yugoslavia 12	3, China 11.

GOLF

WENDALE *Worcester's Classic*: Third round ended: 215; S. Barcham (Aust): 70, 73, 72; B. Pearson (US): 73, 74, 71; 70. **LAKE** (US): 75, 70; B. Monness (US): 70, 78, 72; 214; N. Diaz: 71, 71, 75; P. Sinn: 70, 75, 74; P. Bradley: 71, 72.

RUGBY UNION

MIDDLESEX CUP: First: Roselyn Park 13, West London Institute 3.

NORTHERN BURN: 2, Wrexham 25; Heston Moor 9, Sturton 3; Hull & East Riding 24, Halifax 12; Lynn 21, Rochdale 6; Macclesfield 6, Stockport 29; Morpeth 9; Alnwick 25; Old

DEVON CUP: Quarter-final: Torquay 27, Bideford 18.

CORNWALL MERIT TABLE: Redruth 13, Newquay 8, Truro 11, Panzance-Newlyn 0.

CORNWALL JUNIOR CUP: Semi-final: Liskeard-Looe 7, Helston 3. Bideford win an

76, 70, 71, 67; 28S: 5 Whites; 70, 74, 70; 75, 70
ton 69, 72, 71; 23 Wines: R Chapman 75, 70
70; 26F: D Jagger 78, 70, 68; B McCall
70, 71; 66: 66: P Head 68, 72, 73; 75: 75
69; 70: 70: 68, 74; D Ray 68, 71, 74; C
tine 68, 76, 71, 75; P Carroll 74, 68, 72
29S: P Kent 72, 74, 72, 72; E Darcy (tr) 75,
71, 71; J Morgan 72, 72, 73; F Harrison
71, 73, 70; 28F: M King 73, 73, 71, 72; S
70, 71, 70, 71, 70, 71, 70, 71, 70, 71, 70, 71

away team).
DEVOY CUP: 6th-first: Plymouth Albion 76,
Horton 6.
KENT CUP: First Ashes 9, Blackheath 20.

ATHLETICS
FIELD: Paid Assurances half marathon Men:
1. B. Ford Ashford 30min 40sec (cor)
1970-2. G. Brown Ashford 36.1. 3. E.
1971-2. G. Brown Ashford 36.1. 3. E.

LACROSSE

YACHTING
WEST: Spring Series: Admiral's Cup
winner 1, Christine S (M Peacock) 2hr
24 mins; 2, Aileen (S. L. James) 2hr 20-3;
3, Aileen (S. L. James) 2hr 21-18. On Class
consolation (S. Kelly) (ask-over).
SINGTON: Spring Series: Class 1: 1,
Aileen (S. L. James) 2hr 20-3; 2, Prosem (J. N. G.
James) 2hr 21-18. On Class consolation (S. Kelly) (ask-over).
MERTON: Triangular tournament: British
Universities Sports Federation 7, England
Under-21; 8, BUSF 4, England Reserves 17;
England Reserves 12, England Under-21 3. All-
England Schools' final: Queen Anne's,
Caversham 2, St George's, Edinburgh 1.

SPEEDWAY
LEAGUE CUP: Swinton 35 (M Simmons 10, P

SWIMMING
Speedo International Senior

CRYSTAL PALACE: Southern Counties
springboard champion; Whiters.
Women: A Ladies (Southern) 322.50 pts; Gith:
1. S. Ryan (Lancs DC) 354.50; Mrs M Dear
(Highgate) 350.00; Beys: P. McCord (Southern)
322.50.

REAL TENNIS
DPS CLUB: Another stages champion-first round: A Lpwill to T Wurgung 5-1, 6-3, 6-4; P Seabrook to B Weatherall 6-1, 6-3, 6-3.

Star or *H. Magellanicus* b-1, 8-9; b-1; *M. Theobaldi*
Deer 1-6, 8-9, rac; *J. Ward* at *M. Chryseide*
 1-5, 8-9; *W. Boone* at *N. Danby* 8-1, 3-6,
 10, 8-9.

[illegible][illegible]

he desperate clutching fingers of
k Scott and the surging piston
of the giant New Zealander
eme West took Wizen in

[illegible]

needs went back to the top of the men's Luger championship table with a 16-12 victory over

CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Seed-final: Hull
over Rovers 11, Hagan 1B.

DIVISION: Freshman: Rovers 17,
12; Huxley 15, Clifton 19.

SENIOR: Rovers 17, 12; Huxley 15, Clifton 19.

JONKOPING, Sweden: Western's World Team Championships: Scotland 2, Canada 5.

[illegible]

SPEEDWAY

LEAGUE CUP: Swindon 35 (M Simmons 10, P Crump 9, B Peterson 6), Cradley Heath 43 (P Collins 6, E Gundersen 6, S Cross 6); King's Lynn 8, Reading 15 (abandoned after 4 heats,

SWIMMING
EXHIBIT: Speedo International: Senior

SKI JUMPING
STRASSKE PLESO, Czechoslovakia: World Cup, 70m: 1, M. Nyström (Fin) 221.0 pts; 2, R. Schindler (Austria) 219.8; 3, V. V. Ossi (Nor) 214.9; 4, J. V. Ossi (Nor) 214.9; 5, E. Vetter (Austria) 214.9.

[illegible]

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captain
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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Trade 01-278 9161/5



Secretary

TO THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

The Executive Editor who is responsible for the coverage of finance and business in The Times and for The Times Special Reports requires a secretary who can play a responsible role in the office.

You will have studied to A level or equivalent standards which, for preference, will have included Economics or Business Studies. Current experience in a City finance or business environment is essential.

You will need enthusiasm, self-confidence, common sense and excellent secretarial skills.

Salary is in the region of £9,800 p.a.

If you can meet these requirements, please write giving full personal and employment details to:

Desmond Hayes, Assistant Personnel Manager, Times Newspapers Ltd., 200 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8EZ.

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Economics

£8,000 +
The Group Economist of a major international leisure company needs an Economics Graduate to work as his assistant. Excellent prospects if you are ambitious, highly numerate and have good secretarial skills (90/50).

Marketing

£8,000
High-tech company based S.W. of London needs a Marketing Assistant with excellent typing and a degree in business studies. Job will involve analysis of marketing data, preparation of press releases and secretarial support for the Marketing Dept.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

01-629 7262
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Marketing

£8,000 + 5% bonus
An excellent career opportunity for the young PA/Secretary looking for a first move. This is a dynamic company with a track record of more than 100 years' success in international trade and finance. Working at senior level for their Marketing Manager (recently appointed) you will organise meetings and travel, handle your own correspondence, liaise at Board level and deal with all usual PA duties. Smart offices, friendly environment, big company benefits inc. BUPA etc. No audio. WP experience desirable but will train. If you have good skills (90/55), and are aged 20+, please telephone 01-493 5787.

Gordon Yates Ltd.
35 Old Bond Street,
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PART-TIME PA

Do you want to work part-time of perhaps would just enjoy the flexibility of a two-day week with the possibility of moving into a permanent position later? The chairman of this city Re-insurance Co is shortly arriving from Australia and must have the secretarial support he needs to make him quickly feel at home. You should ideally be 30+, a competent sh/audio secretary with IBM displaywriter or PC knowledge. You will use an IBM PC to lighten your work-load and you must be the confident, flexible socially aware person that he will rely on so much.



Executive Secretary to the Director of The Spastics Society

£7,803-£8,577 per annum including LL.W.A.
We are seeking an experienced Secretary for this demanding role. This is an interesting and varied position which involves organising and processing the work of the Director's office and undertaking secretarial work for members of the Directorate when necessary. Good technical skills (shorthand and typing of 120/60 wpm) combined with at least three years' experience in a similar role, and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels within and outside The Society is desirable.

For further details and application form please telephone Mrs L. Dubash, Assistant Personnel Officer on 01-635 5028, ext 289.

CLOSING DATE: 1st April, 1985.

BEST BENEFITS IN TOWN - EC3 JUNIOR SECRETARY 18-30

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT
Ideal opportunity for charming A-level college leaver to join this prestigious company. Great guests from all Nations and use your secretarial skills (90/45) to organise travel arrangements and Government delegations.

SECRETARIES 25-30
Our client has 4 other exciting vacancies for this prestigious International Organisation. They will cross train a WP, offer excellent salaries and a friendly working environment.

Please phone Charmaine Dobson on 01-930 5733 for more details



01-930 5733

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Would you like to help a Milan-based firm of International Management Consultants start up a London Office? You can, if you are completely bilingual in English and Italian (mother tongue standard English) with intelligence, initiative and a flexible attitude. Ideal typing and reasonable English skills are also needed. The company intends opening a New York office so you may be asked to visit there in the future. Age 20-35.

Good salary open to negotiation.

174 New Bond Street, W1



01-491 7100

SECRETARY

Salary to £10,000
Audio Secretary to three directors of Lloyd's Insurance Brokers. Good experience of WANG WP work and Lloyd's preferable.

Please apply in first instance with full CV to:

Mr G. Crispin
Dewey Wines and Company Ltd
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London EC3R 5EE

Interior Design

£8,000

This is a young, fresh-thinking company, already well established in both UK and overseas markets. As a result of continuing growth, they now seek a Secretary/Assistant with an interest in design. Working as part of a small, dedicated team, you will be involved in all aspects of the business - administrative and design. Fast, accurate typing (no shorthand), initiative, a good telephone manner, and adaptability are all required. Current driving licence. Age 19-24.

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have the following
vacancy-
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To Partnership Secretary to assist in administration and personal correspondence in addition to varied and interesting secretarial duties. Experience in solicitors' practice is essential. Attractive salary will be paid to successful applicant who brings experience and enthusiasm to this senior, responsible and challenging position.

Please write with a brief CV to:

G. J. Newby,
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High Holborn House,
52/54 High Holborn,
London WC1 6BW.

CITY OPPORTUNITIES

Are you in your twenties and looking for a new challenge? Would you enjoy the pace and excitement of working at the heart of international investment and finance?

We have a wide variety of jobs with well established City companies for secretaries with good skills, a few years experience, enthusiasm and initiative. Top salaries, range £8,500-£10,500 with superb perks including mortgage subsidies, loans and bonuses.

For further details please call:

588 3535

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants
18 Eldon Street, EC2

Secretary required Mayfair

I am looking for a super secretary who will give back up to two PAs but at the same time be able to work on her own initiative, be unflappable and enjoy a fast moving atmosphere. Age 28+. Salary in region of £8,500-£10,000. C.V. to Box 1251W The Times, ref C.R.M.

OPPORTUNITIES AT 40+

IN THE CITY £8,500 NEG
A top firm of architects seek a secretary/PA to a partner. 100/50 skills needed.

MOVE INTO MAYFAIR to £9,000
A small international manufacturing co. seek a secretary/office manager. Internal atmosphere & own office. 100/50 skills needed.

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A small import export co. seek a mature secretary to their chairman. This is an unusual secretarial position with plenty of variety. 80/50 skills needed.

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Career position in the London office of the UK's leading business agents, valuers & surveyors. Will appeal to someone who enjoys responsibility, wishes to be vitally involved in a medium sized professional company & wants to work directly with the M.D.

Applicants must be genuinely conscientious and hard working. Please apply to:

J. M. Howard M.D.,
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£9,250-£25+ EC2
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Two opportunities to break into a career in personnel dealing with a variety of duties and responsibilities. One is a permanent position and the other is a contract position. Both are in a well established company which could offer your prospects. In return for excellent skills and enthusiasm these companies will pay good salaries. If you feel that you need this commitment then ring Susan Baynes today.

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£29,000 + fares paid
Ext position assisting director of super non commercial Co. Also personally run as you will be dealing with people and clients at all levels. 80/50 wpm. V.A. & sales skills.

Computer of WP know

£9,500
22+ Top City Co require a person with good secretarial to organise their computer dept. V.A. career prospects and benefits.

Keystone Emp Consultants
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Are you taking your 1st step into a career? We have several positions in well established companies which could offer your prospects. In return for excellent skills and enthusiasm these companies will pay good salaries. If you feel that you need this commitment then ring Susan Baynes today.

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Senior Secretaries

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or 01-499 5807

DESIGN COMPANY

£7,500 ++
Sales Administrator for small successful company. Assist in the control and co-ordination of a flourishing business. You will possess the ability to type, organise and handle book-keeping and correspondence with a multitude of diverse and demanding tasks. An intelligent energetic person will find this extremely enjoyable and rewarding.

Joan Graham Partnership
79 Wells Street, W.1
580 5522 (Rec Cons)

Research Assistant/ Secretary

£10,000
International Executive Search Consultants in Covent Garden require a well educated Research Assistant/Secretary with administrative and clerical skills. The job involves a lot of typing and research. A good knowledge of shorthand and a car are essential. Excellent remuneration package.

Contract. Excellent benefits. 01-722 7101
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Anscombe & Ringland Residential Lettings Superb Opportunity

Due to our continuing expansion we require 2 additional negotiators to join our highly successful teams in both Kensington and St John's Wood. Self motivated, hard working, proven ability and a car are essential. Excellent remuneration package.

Contract. Excellent benefits. 01-722 7101
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£29,000 + cottage
Famous Author and Conservationist needs a secretary to help with his work. Good typing skills, good WP experience, shorthand useful but not essential. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

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35 Old Bond Street,
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PA IN ST JAMES'S

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Distinguished businessman who has been successful in the City for 20 years seeks a PA to run his office and his secretary. Call 408 1851.

GOING PLACES?

Two busy entrepreneurs need looking after. Because part of this successful company acting as a confident PA. Good typing.

Call Ann Matthews,
01-730 5148

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(no agencies, please)

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Legal Secretary with audio and word processing skills required. Excellent working conditions and friendly atmosphere. Salary commensurate with age and experience. Contact Mrs L. Slikin on 01-222 6161.

Ask Alfred Marks.

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We are holding an open evening
on Wednesday 27 March
at Tower Hotel

Come along and discuss your career prospects over a glass of wine and snacks.
5.30 onwards

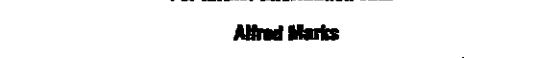
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London E1
(nearest tube Tower Hill)

For further information call:-
Alfred Marks
145 Moorgate EC2 5BB 8115

ALFRED MARKS Recruitment Consultants

DISPLAYWRITER SECRETARY

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Here's a most rewarding challenge as PA/Sec to a Senior Manager of this American Management Consultancy in SW1. You will use your efficiency, tact and ability to the full. There's plenty of W.P. - so experience as displaywriter is a true and abundant although useful is not essential, as he mainly uses audio. So if you are 25+, smart and enjoy a stimulating environment, ring us now.



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THE LAW SOCIETY PERSONAL ASSISTANT Legal Aid

The Legal Services Officer requires a hard-working secretary whose duties will include making typing of general correspondence, minutes and reports, dealing with telephone enquiries from the public and requests for Legal Aid information, maintaining distribution lists and other tasks which may be delegated from time to time.

The successful applicant will be a fast, accurate, audio typist (min 60 w.p.m.), well organised and efficient. Ability to operate a Wangwriter word processor, or willingness to learn is essential. Salary is £8,500-£9,500 p.a. (including London weighting) 21 days' annual leave, staff restaurant facilities and season ticket loan scheme.

Applications giving full details of experience, qualifications and age to: Personnel Officer, Legal Aid, Crown Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL by April 3rd 1985.

SPECIAL INTERVIEWER PERSON

Due to expansion we are looking to recruit an additional consultant. You should have a positive attitude and sales approach together with previous successful agency experience. A knowledge of Word Processing would be an advantage. We are currently a small specialist agency and will require someone who is versatile and would appreciate a variety of involvements and incentives. This position may well suit an interviewee who up till now has been unable to show their full potential and therefore feels under-covered. For further details please phone either

499 8132
during office hours or
306 1453
during the evening.
Sinclair Montrose & Co.

ADLAND PLUS

31 Percy St. W.1.
TOP ECHELON P.A.

Example M.D. of internationally renowned P.A. firm. Personal Assistant to help him deal with the day to day running of the business. You will need to be a fast, accurate, audio typist (min 60 w.p.m.), well organised and efficient. Salary is £8,500-£9,500 p.a. (including London weighting) 21 days' annual leave, staff restaurant facilities and season ticket loan scheme.

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DIRECTOR'S P.A.

£21,000 neg. + perks
Top night elegant and sophisticated P.A. with sound city & banking knowledge and excellent skills (100/60 min) required by EC2 Bank. Previous senior level experience, very good organisational ability and a flexible approach are essential. Age 30-40.

377 8600 (City)
439 7001 (West End)

CITY PERSONNEL

£9,500
A large international company requires a Secretary/PA/Sec for the Personnel Director. As well as providing full secretarial support, your responsibilities will include organising his correspondence, travel arrangements and liaising with the Director's office. This is a very varied, fast paced position with a lot of responsibility. The successful applicant will be a fast, accurate, audio typist (min 60 w.p.m.), well organised and efficient. Salary is £8,500-£9,500 p.a. (including London weighting) 21 days' annual leave, staff restaurant facilities and season ticket loan scheme.

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We are a large international Advertising Agency in St. James's Square, and are looking for a young, energetic, and ambitious person to join our team. The successful applicant will be a fast, accurate, audio typist (min 60 w.p.m.), well organised and efficient. Salary is £8,500-£9,500 p.a. (including London weighting) 21 days' annual leave, staff restaurant facilities and season ticket loan scheme.

Applications giving full details of experience, qualifications and age to: Personnel Officer, Legal Aid, Crown Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL by April 3rd 1985.

PR Receptionist

£12,500
Extremely busy reception area, mostly telephone enquiries. Excellent opportunity for a young, energetic, and ambitious person to join our team. The successful applicant will be a fast, accurate, audio typist (min 60 w.p.m.), well organised and efficient. Salary is £8,500-£9,500 p.a. (including London weighting) 21 days' annual leave, staff restaurant facilities and season ticket loan scheme.

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Recording Studio

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Buy studio, lots of well-known clients, excellent facilities. Accurate typing essential. Excellent opportunity for a young, energetic, and ambitious person to join our team. The successful applicant will be a fast, accurate, audio typist (min 60 w.p.m.), well organised and efficient. Salary is £8,500-£9,500 p.a. (including London weighting) 21 days' annual leave, staff restaurant facilities and season ticket loan scheme.

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Pathfinders

£12,500
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RANK XEROX 860

£10,000
City Secretaries have an immediate vacancy for a city and general secretary to work for a major partner. Good typing skills, good WP experience, shorthand useful but not essential. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

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£25,000
Exciting agency offers stimulating job to lively, responsible person with good skills. Excellent opportunity for a young, energetic, and ambitious person to join our team. The successful applicant will be a fast, accurate, audio typist (min 60 w.p.m.), well organised and efficient. Salary is £8,500-£9,500 p.a. (including London weighting) 21 days' annual leave, staff restaurant facilities and season ticket loan scheme.

Applications giving full details of experience, qualifications and age to: Personnel Officer, Legal Aid, Crown Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL by April 3rd 1985.

PA/SECRETARY

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A small company in the City requires a PA/Secretary to help with their work. Good typing skills, good WP experience, shorthand useful but not essential. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

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SUPER SECRETARIES

01-837 0668

SECRETARY

for busy Export Co. You will need good sec. skills and ability to work on own initiative. Good prospects for the right person. Ideal 2nd job.

Send CV to Miss E. Thornton,
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PROMOTIONS

Specialist secretarial services for international companies. We have a number of vacancies for secretaries with good typing and shorthand skills. We are looking for a good candidate for a senior secretarial position. The successful applicant will be a fast, accurate, audio typist (min 60 w.p.m.), well organised and efficient. Salary is £8,500-£9,500 p.a. (including London weighting) 21 days' annual leave, staff restaurant facilities and season ticket loan scheme.

Applications giving full details of experience, qualifications and age to: Personnel Officer, Legal Aid, Crown Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL by April 3rd 1985.

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We have waiting
company tenants
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your home in
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THE LITTLE BOLTONS SW18
Magnificent maisonette decorated and fitted
with all modern facilities.

HANS PLACE, SW1
Excellent opportunity to furnish the garden area with 1 beds, FF, kitchen, dining hall, and a large lawn. Large garden. Long lot 5200 sq. ft.

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TO LET**

**SW2 2 bed, 1 room, nicely furnished, 1
viewable \$750**

**SW13 Lovely bathroom flat. 2 dble bed
rooms, with small patio garden. \$2
viewable**

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From June 3rd month approx**

**SW7 1 dble bed 1 room, 1 bath \$500-550-550
REGENCY HOUSE PROPERTY**

01-937 3710

[illegible][illegible]

FLATS & HOUSES. Lost recorded American car & tires 723 1696 (T).
SW7 - Lost key 1 bed BL, 22.50 post, Phoenix 728-5442.

SCHOLARSHIP FELLOWSHIPS

LEGE, OXFORD AND IMPUTING LABORATORY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

CEBS Research Fellowship in Numerical data in the physical sciences and electricity Generating Board and held numerical data three or more years of Numerical Analysis Group of the related with existing research there. He is to the CEGB laboratories and to the period of three years initially, with extension for a further two years. St. range £11,501 (\$30) to £14,055 with expenses, including air and sea fares. Applications, including cv and references, to: Mr. J. H. Hart,

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Daville

BBC 1

6.00 Cee-fax AM.

6.50 Breakfast Time with Selina Scott and Nick Ross. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25, 8.55 and 9.15; regional news, weather and travel at 8.57, 9.27, 9.57 and 10.27; national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 7.20, 7.45 and 8.20; pop music news at 7.32; consumer report at 8.15; and a review of the morning newspapers at 8.37. Plus a preview of the week's television and a healthy eating guide.

9.20 Cee-fax. 10.30 Play School, presented by Chloe Ashcroft (r). 10.50 Cee-fax.

12.30 News Afternoon with Michael Coles and Frances Corder. The weather prospects come from Ian McCaskill. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One includes child care expert, Penelope Leach, with advice on the best way to prepare children for their first day at school; and the youngest finalist in the Leeds Piano Competition, 17-year-old Korean, Ju Hee Suh. 1.45 Postman Pat. A See-Say programme for the very young.

2.00 Men. Sociologist Jacqueline Burgoyne examines the changing role of the male at home (r). 2.25 Streetwise. Lesson five of the eight-part self-defence course (r).

2.35 Primal German for tourists. Part five. 2.50 Songs of Praise from St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Leyland, Lancashire (shown yesterday). (Cee-fax). 3.25 Cee-fax. 3.48 Regional news (not London).

3.50 Play School, presented by Ian Lauchlan with guest, Jane Hardy. 4.10 SuperTed on Planet Spot (r). 4.15 Jackanory. William Ruston reads part one of The Magic Pudding, by Norman Lindsay. 4.30 Bananaman (r). 4.35 Fonz and the Happy Days Gang. Cartoon.

5.00 Newsround with Paul McDowell. 5.05 Sir Peter celebrates Goldie's seventh birthday (Cee-fax).

5.35 Garage Hill. Episode 11 and Goncho and Holo hear teachers' talk by bugging the staff room (Cee-fax).

6.00 News with Sue Lawley and Jeremy Paxman. Weather.

6.35 London Plus.

7.00 Wogan. Tarry Wogan's guests are Anna Friel, Graham Southon, Edna O'Brien, Redmond O'Hanlon and The Flying Pickets.

7.40 Fame. The students and staff of New York's High School for the Performing Arts are snowed-in for the night. How will they cope?

8.30 Are You Being Served? The staff of Grace Bros are offered accommodation at the store in an effort to save time and money on travelling. But flat sharing has its problems.

9.00 News with John Humphrys. Weather.

9.25 Panorama: The Jewish Pawna in Russia's Game. Richard Lindley with a report, secretly filmed in Moscow and Leningrad, about the 'refuseniks' who believe they are hostages in Russia's superpower game (see Choice).

10.05 Film: Operation Undercover (1974) starring Michael Moriarty, Yaphet Kotto and Susan Blakely. Thriller about the New York Police Department's involvement with the underworld, sparked off by the murder of an undercover policeman and found dead in a drug dealer's apartment. A policeman is accused of the murder and the Commissioner demands a full scale, no stone unturned, report. Directed by Milton Katselas.

11.55 Weather.

BBC 2

6.15 Good Morning Britain.

6.15 Good Morning Britain, presented by Anne Diamond and Nick O'Connell. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00 and 9.22; sport at 6.20 and 7.27; news at 6.50 and 8.15; Derek Jameson at 7.15; Popeye cartoon at 7.23; pop video at 7.54; astrology at 8.15; Jimmy Greaves television highlights at 8.33; financial advice at 8.40; advice on the foundation of water at 8.03. The guests include Paul Eddington, Sarah Brightman and Giselle Andrews.

9.25 Thames news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: Part two of the Russian version of Thumbelina. 9.47 Learning to read with Sue and Sue. 9.50 A glass-making factory and the art of a glass-blower. 10.12 Science: skills that have no scientific explanation. 10.32 Philip Knightley discusses truth in journalism. 11.02 A canal journey in Amsterdam. 11.20 Junior maths. 11.38 Part five of Jean Anouilh's, La Belle Vie. Tickle on the Tum. Village tales for children (r). 12.10 Let's Pretend to the story of The Chicken and the Duck. 12.30 Baby and Co. Miriam Stoppard discusses the problems of communicating with a baby.

1.00 News at One with Leonard Parkin. Weather. 1.20 Thames news from Robin Houston.

1.30 Film: The Naked Jungle (1954) starring Charlton Heston as Christopher Langan, a bachelor cocoa plantation owner who asks his brother to find him a wife. The lovely Joanna arrives but Christopher resents the fact that she is a widow. Directed by Syron Haskin.

3.25 News news headlines. 3.30 The Young Doctors.

4.00 Tickle on the Tum. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 Badlink. 4.20 He-Man and Masters of the Universe. Animated science fiction adventures. 4.45 Dodger, Bonzo and the Reet. The final episode of the serial about a boy and his sister in cave (Oracle). 5.15 Different Strokes.

5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news. 6.25 Help! Viv Taylor Gee with news of National Record Week.

6.35 Crossroads. Kath Brownlow throws a party.

7.00 What's My Line? Jilly Cooper. George Gale and Ernie Wade have to decipher some odd occupations.

7.30 Coronation Street. Why is a battle of bubble being cracked for Betty Turpin?

8.00 Real Over Beethoven. Comedy series about a millionaire pop star and his prim and proper piano teacher girlfriend. Starring Nigel Planer and Liza Goddard (Oracle).

8.30 World in Action: A Prescription for the Poor. The third and final part of an investigation into the NHS examines whether or not Britain should follow the example of the Finns who have revolutionised their health service.

9.00 Quater. While preparing for his own wedding, the investigative pathologist is given a case in which a woman claims to have murdered her husband on the eve of their 65th wedding anniversary.

10.00 News at Ten and weather headlines by Thames news.

10.30 Film: The Lady Vanishes (1938) starring the late Sir Michael Redgrave. A thrilling Alfred Hitchcock-directed adventure about an elderly lady who disappears on a train.

11.00 Newsnight.

11.45 Weather.

11.55 Animation Now. Top Priority, produced by the National Film Board of Canada. Ends at 12.05.

BBC 2

6.30 Open University: Special Education: A Dependent Future (2). 6.55 North Uist: Where Sunday Survives. 7.20 Cee-fax.

9.00 Cee-fax. 9.15 Daytime on Two: What type of careers guidance do universities provide? 9.38 How working abroad might affect a marriage. 10.00 For the very young. 10.15 The musical story of Harry James. With the voice of Peter Ustinov. 10.38 How state education has changed over the past century.

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5.30 Lifeboat. How coastguards and the men of the Humber lifeboat coped with containers of toxic chemicals that were washed up on the beaches of Spurn during the winter of 1982/3 (r).

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7.40 Animation Now. Give Me Some Action, produced by the Royal College of Art.

7.45 Madhur Jeffery's Indian Cookbook. Among the mouthwatering recipes tonight is one for Tandoori Prawns (r).

8.10 Horizons: How to Film the Impossible. A documentary about how the world's best special effects are created. Narrated by Roger Mills.

9.00 Laugh??? Nearly Paid My Licence Fee. Comedy sketches from a talented team comprising Robbie Coltrane, Ron Blair, Louise Gold and John Sessions (r).

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Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.

7.05 Morning Concert: Mendelssohn's overture 'Ruy Blas' (LSO under Previn). Boyce's Symphony No 6 in F (Bournemouth Sinfonietta under Thomas). Saint-Saëns's 'Danse Macabre' (Rochester Philharmonic). Schubert's Quartet in D minor (Quartetto Italiano). Grieg's Suite in A minor (Royal Philharmonic). Beethoven's overture Egmont (Cleveland, under Solti). Mozart's Concerto in G for two pianos and orchestra, K365 (Akanvinsky). Berenboim's English Chamber Orchestra. Debussy's Suite 'Préludes' (arranged by Benaroya). 8.00 News.

8.05 Morning Concert (cont.): Beethoven's overture Egmont (Cleveland, under Solti). Mozart's Concerto in G for two pianos and orchestra, K365 (Akanvinsky). Berenboim's English Chamber Orchestra. Debussy's Suite 'Préludes' (arranged by Benaroya). 8.00 News.

8.10 The Week in Concert: Chopin. The piano concerto No 2 (played by Pogorzelski, with Chicago SO under Abbado) and the Fantasy on Polish Airs, Op 13 (played by Arrau, piano, and the LPO under Vanecko).

10.00 Handel Trio-Sonatas: L'Ecole d'Orpheus play Handel's Trio-Sonatas in E, G and A. No 5, his Trio-Sonata in A Op 3 No 1.

10.40 Orchestral music: Dvorak's Symphony No 9 (Antwerp Concertgebouw under Sir Colin Davis).

11.20 Sweeten then Roses: Songs from the English Baroque, performed by Catherine Bott (soprano), with David Ricketts (harpsichord), David Scott (violin), and Benjamin Balm (cello). With Stephen Bishop-Kovach (piano). Dorian's The Madrigals as the Madrigals.

11.50 Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1; and Wilhelm Dörmann's Klavierstücke. 1.00 News.

1.05 BBC Lighthouse Concert: Peter Serkin (piano) plays Mozart's Sonata in B flat, K 570; Chopin's Four Mazurkas Op 41; and Beethoven's Sonata in E-Flat, Op 10, No 1; and Wilhelm Dörmann's Klavierstücke. 1.00 News.

2.00 Music Weekly: with Michael O'Brien. Michael Griffiths on Sunday at 6.00.

2.45 New Records: Mozart's Serenade in B flat for 13 wind instruments, K 361 (LPO Wind Ensemble). 3.00 News.

3.05 The World Tonight. 11.00 News. 11.15 The World Tonight. 11.30 News. 11.45 The World Tonight. 11.55 News. 12.00 News.

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Wartime spy 'found living in Australia'

Continued from page 1

Later in the interview he says he tried to save some of the prisoners in Dachau concentration camp. In a mistaken act of goodwill, the US troops had given the starving inmates cans of food. He said he took the time away - knowing that such rich and excessive food could have been fatal.

He talked to *The Age* on the understanding that there would be no reference to his German identity or what his activities in German intelligence were, that he would read in advance an outline of Mr West's articles, and that he reserved the right not to answer some questions.

Mr Evans and his wife separated 14 years ago. She told the newspaper that while he had not known of his secret past, she had no reason to doubt him. She said she did not find out about his Iron Cross for some years and said that when they were first married, almost 40 years ago, he would often talk about his health and sleep. "He just couldn't tell me anything about it," she said.

Mr Evans said he migrated to Australia for his health and to start a new life. He arrived in 1949. He worked his passage to Brisbane, and was production manager in a concrete business but later moved into the shoe business, where he controlled six factories. Next he worked with a company which made women's clothing before joining a Venetian blinds company where he remained for 14 years.

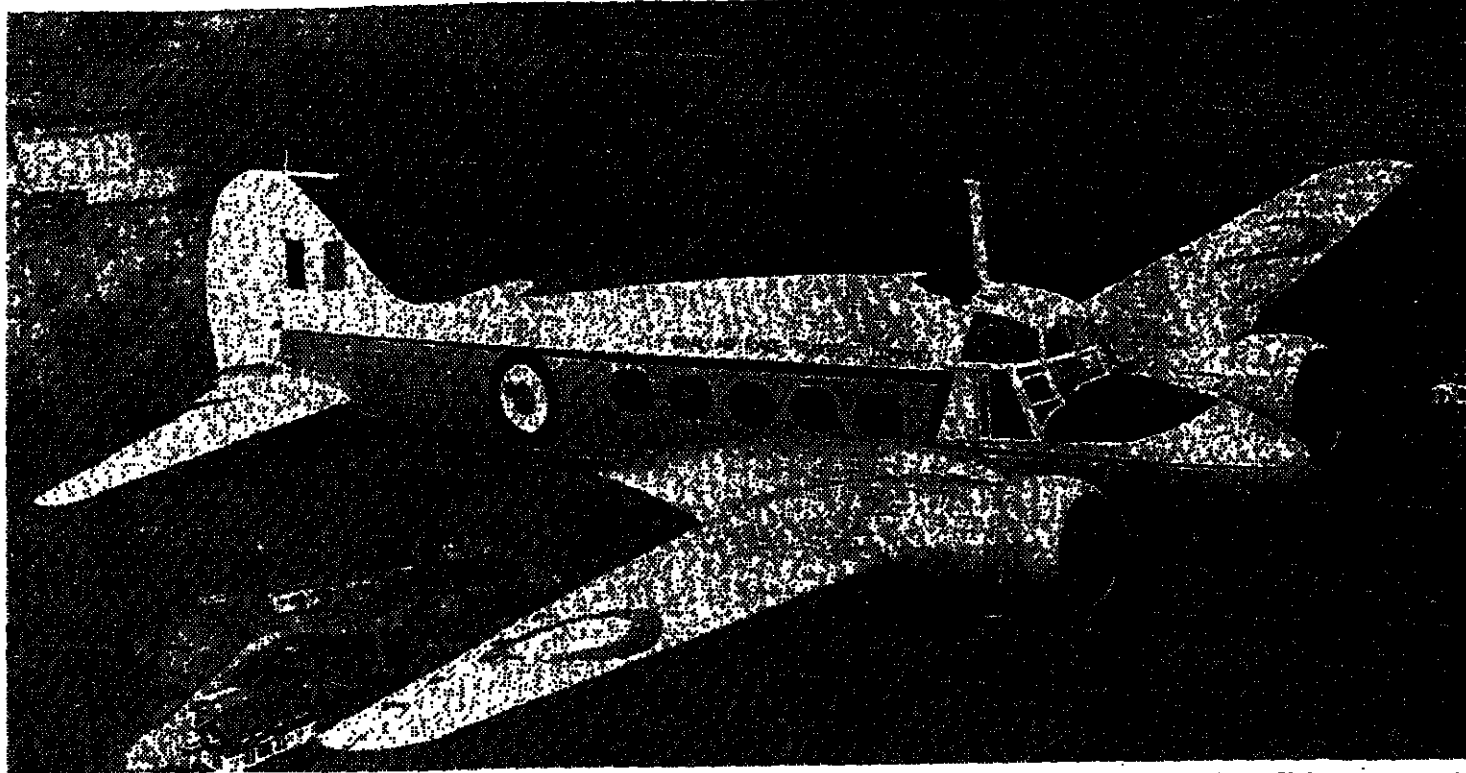
During two days of interviews, *The Age* said it was unable to shake Mr Evans' story. The newspaper said Mr Evans admitted that those people who knew about him were dead. They would include, he said, three heads of the British intelligence service, the Foreign Secretary, and the wartime British Cabinet.

During the interviews, Mr Evans described himself as a devout Catholic, he said he refused ever to parachute, and suffered from vertigo.

"I was not chosen for my physical prowess. My linguistic ability, yes, and my ability to lose myself in a crowd. That was drummed into me during two years of preparation."

"My training was abysmally limited. When I was in Germany I could have nothing to do with women, and has to keep myself to one contact, and not try to guess what it was all about. They (his London chiefs) had to have the brains."

Avro 'Annie' celebrates fifty years



Fifty years on and still airborne - the Avro Anson celebrates its anniversary (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

By Michael Bailey

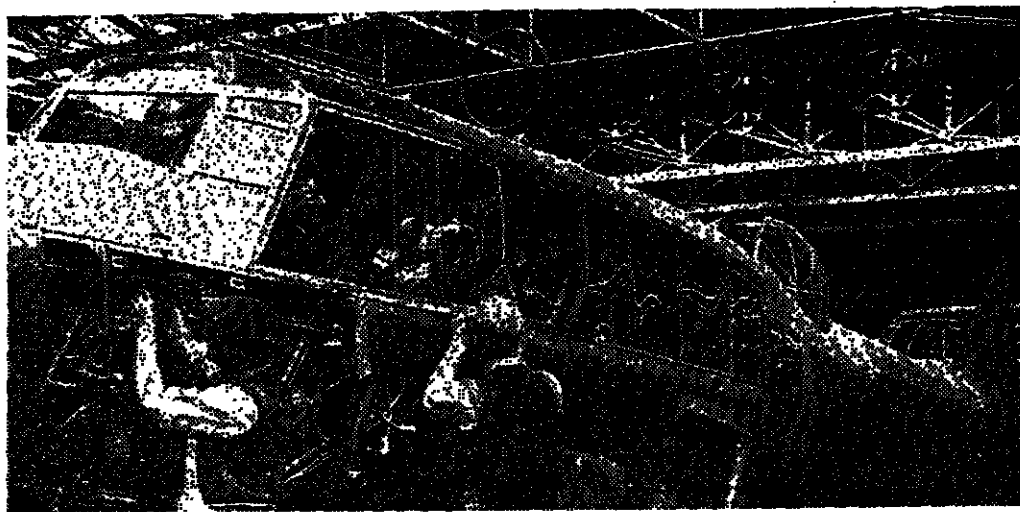
The Avro Anson, one of Britain's best-loved Second World War aircraft, affectionately known to RAF aircrews as the "Annie" celebrated its fiftieth anniversary yesterday.

Designed by A. V. Roe in the early 1930s as a coastal reconnaissance aircraft, the Anson really made its name as a training aircraft for bomber pilots who went on to operations in the Lancaster, Halifax, and Stirling.

More than 11,000 were built, mainly in Manchester and Leeds, and Avro claimed that there was more than any other aircraft. Of typical pre-war construction she had wooden wings and a linen-covered fuselage on a metal tubular frame. One of the less endearing characteristics of earlier models was a hand-operated undercarriage.

With a speed of 120 knots she was a remarkably stable, reliable aircraft to fly, and it was this quality that commended her, along with the slightly tandler Atropide Oxford, as the RAF's basic bomber trainer. Others were used for general transport, ambulances, and after the war as feeder and taxi aircraft throughout the world. Annie officially retired from the RAF in 1968.

The anniversary was celebrated by a flight by what is believed to be the only airworthy example left in Europe, WD413, owned by Fraser Aviation. Normally used for demonstrations and for films she flew from White Waltham in Berkshire, home of the Air Transport Auxiliary, to Leeds, then on to Edinburgh where WD413 is based on the premises of the Edinburgh University Air Squadron.



Working on an Avro Anson fuselage in 1940.

'Mission of treachery' on Ulster denied

Continued from page 1

Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Official Unionist Party, said that the Foreign Office was up to its neck in the latest attempt to unnerve Unionists.

The Government could not give any assurance that they were not talking about these things.

Mr Scott denied that anything sinister was going on between London and Dublin, and said the report suggesting a three-pronged agreement involving regular meetings between ministers on security, judiciary, and policing matters, a joint Anglo-Irish parliament, and power-sharing in the North

was a "substantial over-egging of the pudding".

He admitted that he hoped it would be possible to reach agreement with the Republic on giving them a say in areas which included the police and judiciary, areas the South believes are major causes of alienation among the nationalist minority.

What is beginning to worry Unionists is that in many respects they are powerless to stop developments on the Anglo-Irish front, particularly if they are backed by Mrs Thatcher.

However, although Mr Hurd feels argument between London and Dublin could be possible within five months, the prospects of breaking the deadlock

in the North are much less hopeful, particularly if Unionists fear something is going on behind their backs.

Mr Hurd believes agreement with Dublin might be reached without a deal in the North, but both London and Dublin admit that this would be a high-risk strategy, running the danger of a Unionist backlash.

An IRA arms dump was seized by Irish police yesterday, after they broke open a secret wall panel in a house in Co Mayo. It includes eight rifles, four walkie-talkies, ammunition, an unaddressed letter bomb, eight timing devices, and training charts written on the back of Sinn Féin election posters.

Village voice

Corruption corrodes some of the best intentions

In his column from a poor Ganges village in the shadow of the Himalayas, VICTOR ZORZA, the distinguished journalist, writes about the sorrows and joys of Indian village life. Here he tells how the villagers tried to fight the floods.

The village was going to build a mighty wall to hold off the floods which threatened it every year. Chandan Singh, robbed by the river of his land once before, was determined that it must never happen again. He was the moving spirit behind the project.

Every day he rounded up the villagers who had agreed to help and led them to the river. They filled their baskets with stones and earth and deposited their loads on the bank. Other villagers scoffed: the river always had taken its toll and always would.

Government engineers who came to survey the riverside poked fun at their puny efforts. Earthworks, they said, were no protection against floods. Chandan's volunteers began to drop out. He tried a new tack.

If the project was beyond the village's strength, he said, then it was up to the Government to protect it from the river. The villagers were sceptical. The Government was in the hands of the rich. Why should it want to help them?

Because it wanted their votes, Chandan explained. Politicians, he said, had always wooed them at election time, always made promises. Now the community should make its own demands on them.

The villagers were still doubtful. They were the first generation whose votes had been sought by the parties. They knew they were being manipulated by the politicians. Could they really turn the tables?

A village delegation went to town. Officials listened politely, promised to help, and did nothing. Another delegation went and returned with more promises. And another. They made no headway until the ruling party began to face a serious challenge from the opposition. Then things started to happen.

An army of labourers descended on the village. Bullock carts brought cement. Stonecutters hewed large boulders into shape and cemented them together. The dyke grew taller than a man and broad enough for a bullock cart. Truly, said the villagers, we could never have done anything like this. But some drew another lesson from it: perhaps, instead of always allowing themselves to be manipulated, they could themselves manipulate the politicians?

They hadn't reckoned with the corruption which corrodes some of the Government's best intentions. The dyke had gaps in it. Parts of the wall began to crumble. Officials, the villagers said, must have "eaten" some of the cement allocated to the project.

The Landless Peasants' Union made the most of the fiasco. It proved yet again, said the union organizer, that politicians

promises were not to be trusted. The village must rely on its own strength and fight for its rights, not beg for them. The union, he announced, would organize the village to repair the dyke. The villagers must learn how to work together before they could take on the Government.

The villagers were reluctant, but he found a willing ally in Chandan Singh. The land Chandan had won back from the river was threatened from two directions. The recent floods had brought signs that the river might change its course once again and deprive him of his new field. Also, government officials had been asking questions about his land, and Chandan knew that he had no legal claim to it. He too needed allies. He became a union activist.

He helped the union to mobilize the villagers to repair the dyke. He was always in the foreground during clashes with the police who repeatedly tried to evict the villagers from the landlord's fields. When his neighbours expressed misgivings about the union's connections with the Naxalite revolutionary party, he defended both union and party. The two were linked indivisibly, he explained, because that was the only way they could prevail against the Government and help the village to take back the landlord's fields.

The dyke was patched up, but during the next monsoon the repairs were again undone by the strong currents.

I had been away during the monsoon, and when I returned the damage to the dyke was worse than ever. The water had forced its way through in several places. The gaps were bigger. The river was slowly eating away the ground under the bank, undermining it from below. The next flood, the villagers said, might take more of their land - and maybe their lives too. Chandan's field had become even more vulnerable.

One day a man from a nearby village came to see him with a piece of paper. The document made it clear that the land Chandan Singh had reclaimed from the river was no longer his; officials had allocated it to the stranger.

The union organizer explained to Chandan what had happened. The authorities, he said, were trying to intimidate the village. They wanted to make an example of him because he was an active union worker.

"But we will protect you," he promised.

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Victor Zorza thanks the readers who have sent money for needy villagers and requests that any future donations should not be sent to him but to the Village Voice Fund, Oxford, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7DZ.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leave Heathrow Airport for State visit to Portugal, 3. The Princess of Wales visits Roxburgh House, Tor-Na-Doe Hospital, Mullinbar, Aberdeen, 1.45.

Princess Anne visits the Animal Health Trust's premises at Llanwlad Park, Suffolk, 11.30 and afterwards opens the Trust's new Equine Exercise Performance Unit at Balaton Lodge, Newmarket, 1.45.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron of the Westminster Voice of the Cathedral appeal, attends the reopening of the grand organ, Westminster Cathedral, 7.55.

The Duchess of Gloucester visits Solihull Frail Ambulance Home, 2.10, and later Carrs Lane Homes, Birmingham, 3.25.

New exhibitions

Chinese Artists' works by two contemporary Chinese painters, Harbour Artists' Centre, Irvine, Strathclyde: Mon to Fri 7 to 11 pm, Sat 1 to 4.30 and Sun 2 to 4.30 (ends Apr 19).

Edinburgh and the Forth: Watercolours by Ken Lockhead: Torrance Gallery, 29b Dundas Street, Edinburgh: Mon to Fri 11 to 6, Sat 10.30 to 5 (ends Apr 6).

Cutting in Scotland: Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvin Grove, Glasgow: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jun 16).

David Wilkie sketches and studies, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen: Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Jun 2), Sun 2 to 5 (ends Apr 13).

The contemporary print collection, and Fish, Ribs and other Watercolours by Elizabeth Hartley: both at the Walsall Museum and Art Gallery, Central Library, Lichfield Street, Walsall: Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45 and closed Sun. (Contemporary prints ends April 9 and Fish, Ribs, Apr 20).

Drawings by Bonnard; the Ferens Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Hull: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 4.30, (ends Apr 21).

Music

Handel's "Messiah" by Wolverhampton Grammar School Choral Society, Wolverhampton Civic Hall, 7.30.

Concert by the Nexos Piano Quartet, Henry Wood Hall, Claremont Street, Glasgow, 7.30.

Talks, lectures

The healing influence of colour in our environment by Theo Gimbel, Cranks Restaurant, Durrington, Totnes, 8.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Conclusion of debate on the Budget.

Lords (2.30): Debates on education and training in new technology, on parental leave; and on museums and galleries.

Roads

West M.4: Various lanes closed between junctions 18 (M46) and 19 (M32); Bath and Bristol, Avon; partial contraflow.

Midlands: M.1: Contraflow between junction 18 (Rugby) and 16 (Northampton), southbound, entry slip road at junction 18 closed, M.6: Contraflow between junctions 10A (Wolverhampton) and 11 (Canterbury); no southbound access to Hillon Park service area; no southbound entry from junction 11.

M.45: Closed eastbound from junction 17 of M1, near Rugby.

M.6: Lanes closed both carriageways between junctions 32 (M.55) and 33 (A6 Lancaster South), Lancs; access to Forton services maintained; care required. M.6: Contraflow on northbound, between junction 41 (Wigan) and 44 (N of Carlisle). A.46: Diversion in Warrington Street at junction with Crown St, Warrington, Cheshire. Delays to southbound drivers.

Scotland: M.74: Contraflow between junctions 1 and 2 (Lanark to Larkhall). A.9: Temporary lights N of Edinburgh, Ross and Cromarty. A.94: Temporary diversions North of Forth, Kinkardine; Extreme care.

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Nature notes

The first summer migrants are back. Wheatears are on their way to mountainsides and hilly pastures: they stop to feed, bobbing and darting about, on any wide stretch of grass, including parks and playing fields. Sand-martins have arrived and are feeding over rivers, braking and turning dramatically in their flight as they snap up passing insects.

Redshanks have come in from the coasts to their breeding-places in wet fields and marshes: in their display-flight, they climb on trembling wings and glide down again with wings held in a stiff arc, making a yodelling cry that can be heard from far away. Snipe are displaying in the same skies as the redshanks, flying round in circles with a monotonous ticking note, or diving and "drumming" - that is, making a strange twanging sound as the wing rushes through their tail-feathers.

Leaf-buds are opening very slowly, even on the hawthorn, chestnuts, which are normally so forward. Badgers have got cubs in their underground sets: the young will not appear until it is warmer, but the adults are up digging for any kind of food they can get, from bluebell bulbs to nests of young rabbits.

DJM

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	27.55	28.15
Canada \$	70.71	74.70
Denmark kr	1.35	1.38
France F	14.09	14.20
Germany DM	6.12	6.22
Italy Lira	119.88	120.00
Japan Yen	3.52	3.72
Netherlands Gld	171.00	180.00
Norway Kr	1.30	1.32
Spain Ptas	1.28	1.30
Sweden Krona	248.00	258.00
Switzerland Fr	2.00	2.05
US Dollar	1.55	1.58
Yugoslavia Dnr	281.00	285.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Other rates may vary. Exchange rates for foreign currency business. Retail prices index 382.7. London: The FT index closed down 0.7 on Friday at 1287.45.

New York: The Dow Jones Industrial average closed down 0.7 on Friday at 1287.45.

Anniversaries

Birtles: Béla Bartók composer of Hungary (Romania), 1881. Deaths: Frédéric Mistral, poet, Marseilles, France, 1914; Claude Debussy, Paris, 1918; John Drinkwater, poet and playwright, London, 1937.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for (premium) Bond prizes are: £100,000, 1578, 187,471 (winner lives in London borough of Enfield); £50,000, 1322, 371617 (Harrow); £25,000, 1376, 449178 (Gwent).

Portfolio

Published in The Times Portfolio list which will appear on the Stock Exchange Prices page. In the columns provided next to your shares note the price changes (+ or -) in pence, as published in that day's Times.

After listing the price changes of your share changes for that day, add up all eight shares changes to give you your overall total plus or minus (+ or -).

Check your overall total against The Times Portfolio dividend, published on the Stock Exchange Prices page.

If your overall total matches The Times Portfolio dividend you have won outright or a share of the total prize money stated for that day and must claim your prize as instructed below.

Portfolio - how to play Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio total. Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim Telephone The Times Portfolio desk line 0254-62272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you claim. If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio desk. No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

Lighting-up time London 6.52 pm to 5.20 am (Midland 7.02 pm to 5.30 am) Manchester 7.01 pm to 5.27 am (Birmingham 7.13 pm to 5.42 am)

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; i, ice; r, rain; s, sun.

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 9 am to 5 pm, 11C (50F); min 6 pm to 9 am, 5C (41F); humidity: 6 pm, 77 per cent. Rain: 2.4 in to 6 pm, 0.5 in. Sun: 2.4 in to 6 pm, 0.5 in. Wind: 1.000 mph, rising, 1.000 mph, rising.

Today: Temp: max 9 am to 5 pm, 11C (50F); min 6 pm to 9 am, 5C (41F); humidity: 6 pm, 77 per cent. Rain: 2.4 in to 6 pm, 0.5 in. Sun: 2.4 in to 6 pm, 0.5 in. Wind: 1.000 mph, rising, 1.000 mph, rising.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Poole, 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Glastonbury, 5C (41F); highest night temp: Glastonbury, 5C (41F); lowest night temp: Glastonbury, 5C (41F).

Today: Highest day temp: Poole, 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Glastonbury, 5C (41F); highest night temp: Glastonbury, 5C (41F); lowest night temp: Glastonbury, 5C (41F).

Weather

A complex area of low pressure covers the British Isles. Rain, heavy at times, will spread from SW over England and Wales during day.

6am to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles, E. Midlands, S. Wales: Dry at first, rain spreading from SW, wind S becoming SE moderate; max temp 7 to 8C (45 to 48F).

Central S. SW England, Channel Islands: Rain spreading E, heavy at times; wind SE, becoming variable, moderate; max temp 7 to 8C (45 to 48F).

E. NW central, N. England, W. Wales: Mostly dry at first, outbreaks of rain, with snow on high ground, later: wind SW to S, light or moderate; max temp 6 to 7C (43 to 45F).

W. Wales, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, with rain, heavy at times and snow on high ground, turning showery later; wind NE or N light or moderate; max temp 3 to 5C (37 to 41F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: After rain in S at first it will become brighter everywhere with scattered showers. Rather cold with night frost.

SEA PASSAGES: North Sea: Wind S moderate increasing strong; sea slight becoming moderate or rough. Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): wind S, fresh or strong perhaps gale later; sea moderate becoming rough. St George's Channel: Wind S moderate backing NE to E, sea slight becoming p-showerly, moderate or rough, Irish Sea: Wind variable, mainly S light; sea smooth.

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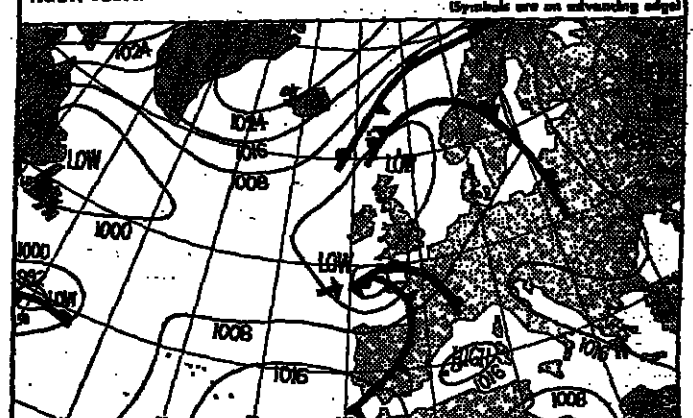
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NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold



High tides

TODAY				
	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.59	6.9	4.18	8.8
Aberdeen	3.23	3.9	3.24	3.9
Armagh	9.27	11.8	9.38	11.8
Belfast	1.91	3.0	1.21	3.1
Cardiff	1.05	1.1	0.17	1.1
Doncaster	7.43	7.5	7.17	5.1
Dover	12.86	6.0	11.10	5.0
Edinburgh	7.13	5.5	7.26	4.9
Glasgow	3.20	4.6	3.16	4.6
Harwich	1.45	3.1	2.08	3.8
Hull	12.12	5.1	12.27	6.2
Hydrol	8.26	7.0	8.36	7.2
Inverness	1.04	8.8	1.13	7.1
Leith	1.41	5.0	5.31	5.1
Liverpool	1.06	2.8	1.51	3.1
London	11.27	2.1	11.46	2.6
Margate	1.54	4.5	2.15	4.4
Wick/Haven	1.17	2.1	1.36	2.6
Newbury	7.10	6.5	7.30	6.5
Oban	7.48	3.6	7.49	3.7
Perth	6.48	6.8	6.48	6.8
Plymouth	8.51	1.9	8.02	1.8
Portsmouth	7.57	4.1	7.46	4.1
Sheerness	1.00	5.8	1.14	5.7
Southampton	12.47	4.3	12.57	4.2
Stirling	1.14	1.4	1.14	1.4
Tees	9.47	4.9	8.56	5.1
Widnes	1.38	4.0	1.56	3.9

b-blue sky; b-lt-blue sky and cloud; c-cloudy;
 c-overcast; l-light drizzle; h-hail; m-mist;
 n-rain; s-snow; b-bands; storm; p-showers;
 r-rain or snow; w-wind; w-spd (mph)
 cloud; temperatures (cent)